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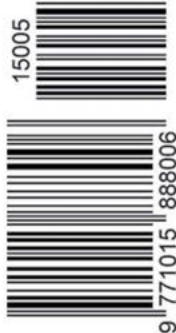
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May is a transitional month, as we move through autumn into winter. Visually, May is one of my favourite months – I love the textures and colours of nature as it transforms itself into a winter-ready state: rich oranges, browns, reds, pinks and yellows suffuse the skyline, and the chill in the early mornings adds an extra sparkle to the world.

May is also the month that we start preparing our homes for winter – pulling out the goose-down duvets, winter accessories, heaters, and hot water bottles to keep us warm and toasty through the chilly months.

And keeping our homes warm is what our May issue is all about! A fireplace is a good place to start, so we look at the different types of fireplaces to use in your home.

You can't keep a good South African indoors for long, even in the cold weather – so we've also tackled the topic of entertaining outdoors; keeping these spaces warm for your guests, ways of preparing your meals, and comfy outdoor furniture.

Possibly the warmest place to be in winter is your bed, and wrapping a luxurious mattress in cosy, indulgent linen will make you want to spend the whole weekend in-between the covers. You will need to nip out for a bite to eat now and then, and our kitchen article looks at gas stoves and cookers, which heat up quicker, are more energy efficient, and should load shedding kick in as is predicted, will still allow you to prepare that steaming cup of hot chocolate or pot of soup.

While we're talking indulgence, there are few things better than stepping into a hot shower or bath after a long day's work and that long, cold trek home. Our bathroom article zooms in on creating an indulgent bathroom, looking at baths, showers, lighting and all the extras that add luxury to this space.

There's lots more to keep you snuggled between the covers of our May issue, including competitions where you can win over R100 000 worth of prizes, just by sending in an SMS – all doable from the comfort of your bed, or couch by the fireplace.

And a last thing to warm the cockles of our hearts – May is the month where we celebrate our Moms, with Mother's Day on Sunday 10 May. Don't forget to get a special gift for that special lady in your life; and to all the Moms who are a part of our SA Home Owner family: Happy Mother's Day!



I'm loving...

The Charles Fox 2011 Prestige Cuvée, CIPHER. I am a bubbly addict, and jumped at the chance to try a MCC that I had not previously heard of. Well, this lesser-known flagship Cap Classique has shot right into my top three, with its 50% Pinot Noir/50% Chardonnay blend. Hints of citrus, cashew nut and classic biscotti, are followed by a rich palette of lemon rind and brioche. Pair it with oysters, lobster or mature camembert. www.charlesfox.co.za



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And thro' the changing scenes of life
I find a haven there.

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Kerry

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MICHAEL DALY

Account executive

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR WINTER STYLE? Simple, trendy and cheerful.

MY FAVOURITE PART OF MY HOME IS... My patio. I love the outdoors.

LOVE OR HATE WINTER? It's a love-hate relationship. I love sipping on cocktails under the summer sun, but winter

cuddles are just as awesome!

HOT CHOCOLATE OR CAFFE LATTE? Neither. A cappuccino or an espresso for me, please.

WINTER IN JOBURG... Chilly, dark and bustling.

WHICH FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE IS YOUR FAVOURITE? "Outward bound". We're lucky in SA to be able to entertain outdoors in winter.

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONALITY? I'm easy-going, friendly and I have good sense of humour.

WINTER IS THE PERFECT SEASON TO... Drink wine and sit at the fire.

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... My sausage dog, Jerry.



BONISILE MKHIZE

Marketing intern

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR WINTER STYLE? Warm, elegant and fuzzy.

MY FAVOURITE PART OF MY HOME IS... My dining room, because it has a wall full of special photographs in beautiful frames.

LOVE OR HATE WINTER? I love winter! The days are shorter.

HOW DO YOU UPDATE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER? Firstly, I ensure my fireplace is in good condition. Then I pull out a few rugs to add to the cosiness of my home.

HOT CHOCOLATE OR CAFFE LATTE? Hot chocolate!

UP-AND-COMING TRENDS YOU'VE SPOTTED, AND CAN'T WAIT TO ADOPT? Definitely the style of painting a bedroom with three different colours – it makes the room look big and bright.

WHICH FEATURE IN THE MAY ISSUE IS YOUR FAVOURITE? Definitely "Bathed in luxury". I'm tempted to make a few adjustments to my bathroom.

WINTER IS THE PERFECT SEASON TO... Spend quality time with family, and enjoy delicious comfort food.

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... Good food. I recently bought a three-tier food steamer – I love cooking a good meal at home.

I NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT... My phone. I don't think I'll survive without it.

WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDBAG? Sunglasses and red lipstick. I love rock-red lips when I go out.



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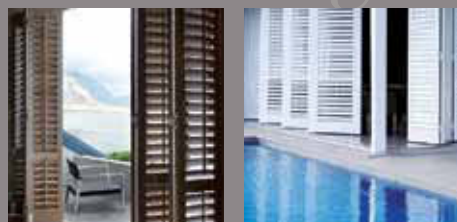


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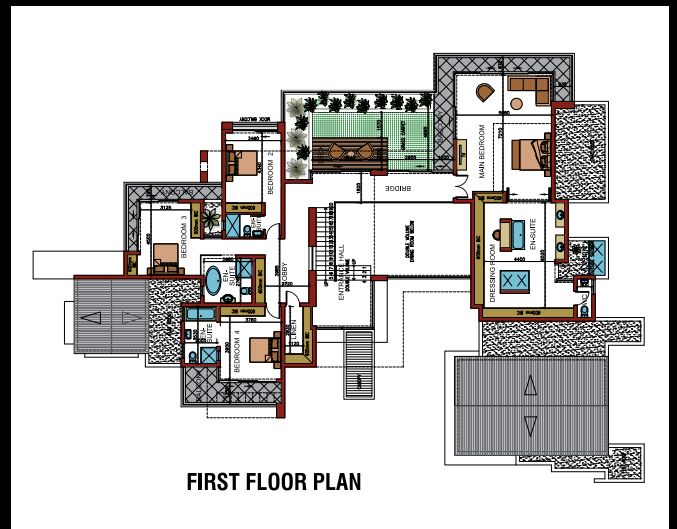
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The beauty of a textured piece lies in the depth it provides to the setting in which it is placed. Texture in furniture and decor refers to materials such as wood and textiles – items that have movement and pattern.

In recent years, product designers have been using complementary textures to create interesting spaces, whether it's by using materials that are naturally textured, such as raw timber, or creating handmade pieces with different materials – it's this tactile experience that gives personality to simple designs.

Over the last two years there has been an emergence of mixing-and-matching materials, and with this we have seen the appreciation of solid timber, and the pairing of other materials such as glass, ceramics, stone and metals.

At Paris Design Week, Italian designer Carlo Contin partnered with Adentro to design the Ninna chair, which opens the dialogue between the world of classical furniture and the contemporary universe, and advocates simple shapes and clean lines. This is seen



Pictures: Maison & Objet, Rocket Design and Woolworths



As in furniture, the mixing-and-matching of materials echo in decor



It's this inter-play of different textures and materials that gives traditional pieces a contemporary edge

in the light wooden frame and suspended leather seat.

If you love this type of design, Johannesburg-based Rocket Design is creating bespoke furniture pieces that are made of solid wood and metal – this combination is quite on trend for achieving an industrial look and feel.

Similarly, Meyer Von Wielligh has a design approach that favours the gentle lines and intricate textures of nature, and therefore designs and manufactures signature furniture pieces that are not only functional, but also pleasing to the eye.

It's this inter-play of different textures and materials that gives traditional pieces a contemporary edge.

As in furniture, decor pieces, too, are incorporating a lot more texture than before.

British design house Andrew Martin has successfully managed to add texture to any space through its wallpaper collection. The Andrew Martin collection consists of designs that replicate the realness of products. It's certainly captivating, as it brings a dynamic tone to the space.

With the increase in digitally-produced products, ironically, the trend towards handcrafted pieces is on the rise. By using age-old techniques to produce one-of-a-kind pieces, often products such as ceramics and quilts have an element of roughness, as no two items look the same.

As in furniture, the mixing-and-matching of materials echoes in decor. Here, adding texture is a lot simpler, as different fabrics can be paired to make interesting pieces.

Locally, Ceramic Factory has achieved this with its "My World" range. This collection was a collaborative project among three local manufacturers. By taking a multi-material approach and exploring combinations of ceramics with glass, wood and steel, the collection has a range that includes matte and polished finishes, as well as pieces with wood and copper.

Texture doesn't have to be restricted to single pieces, but can be achieved in a number of ways. This growing trend will definitely be embraced as we look to create homes that are reflective of our personalities. ■



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A photograph of a wooden armchair and ottoman. The chair has a dark wood frame with a curved back and armrests. The seat and ottoman are upholstered in a woven fabric with a geometric pattern of dark and light squares. The chair is positioned in a room with light green walls and a light-colored floor. The ottoman is in the foreground, partially cut off by the bottom edge of the frame.

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howto...

A guide to creating the ultimate man cave – **BY DAVE NEMETH**



A dream for many men is a place that is out of bounds for all but the boys

A dream for many men is a place that is out of bounds for all but the boys; a place where you can chill and immerse yourself among those awesome “man toys”.

This trend seems to be on the rise, with the term not even existing a couple of years back. The idea of the “man cave” is that it is a standalone space, but does not detract from the look and feel of the decor of the rest of the interior.

The first thing to consider when deciding to create such a space or sanctuary is to establish exactly what you plan to have in it. A spare room in a house will generally accommodate little more than a couch and a pool table, while an unused double garage will allow for an additional bar and, instead of a pool table, possibly a mini cinema for watching sport, as well as an area for interactive gaming systems.

If you are actually building on an extension to an existing property, it may be worth your while to invest in an interior designer who can do the proper space planning, and assist with the electrical layout and finishes. It may be an idea to go with double-thick soundproof walls if you are a music lover and the space

will primarily be used as a music room. Soundproofing is generally a good idea, though, as even watching sport can be quite rowdy and loud.

Lighting is key, as you want a cosy space which fluorescent lighting just won't give you. Go for energy-saving LED lighting, which can all be wired up to dimmers. A garage can end up being exceptionally hot in summer and cold in winter, so you may want to invest in an air-conditioning unit that can regulate the temperature of this space, but, where possible, having the ability to allow in natural light will only prove beneficial.

Regardless of what the main focus of this space will be, technology will, without a doubt, be key, so you should take this into consideration in your initial planning. Having too few plugs is a common problem, so make sure you have ample, and that you have all of the necessary points for routers, Wi-Fi and those other tech add-ons.

Then, don't forget, possibly the most important factor: an en-suite toilet. The rest is up to your imagination. Bring out the child in you and have some fun... man. 🍷

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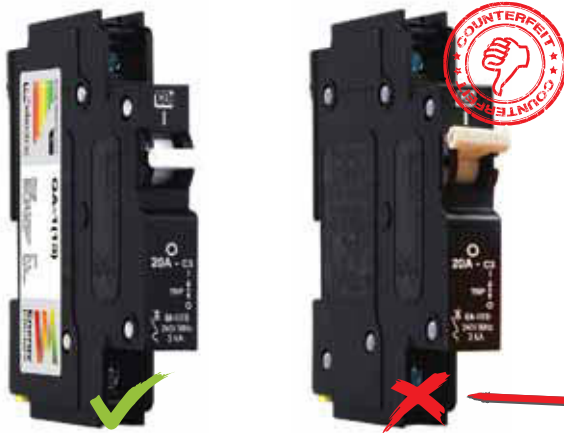
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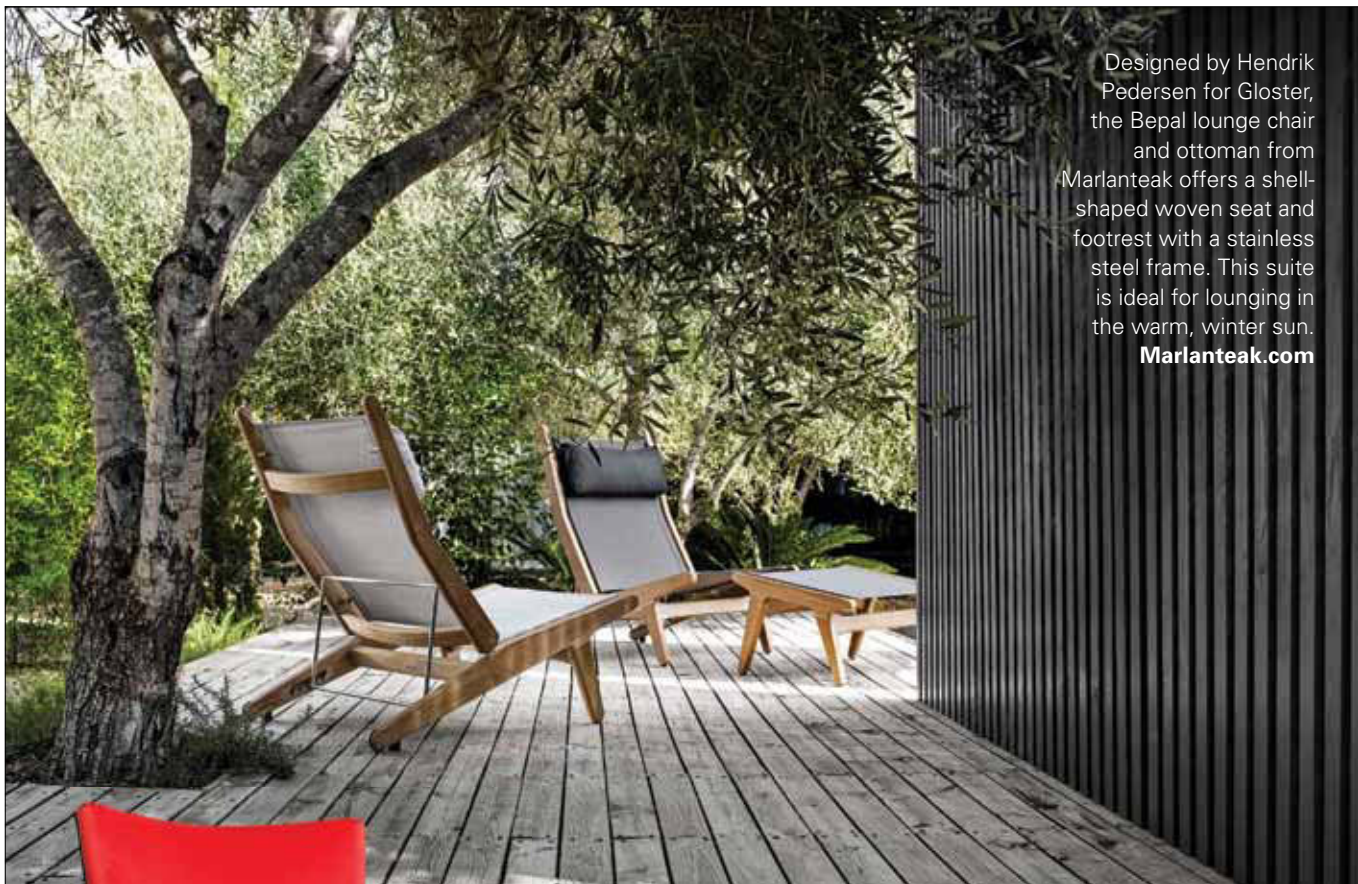
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Marlantek.com



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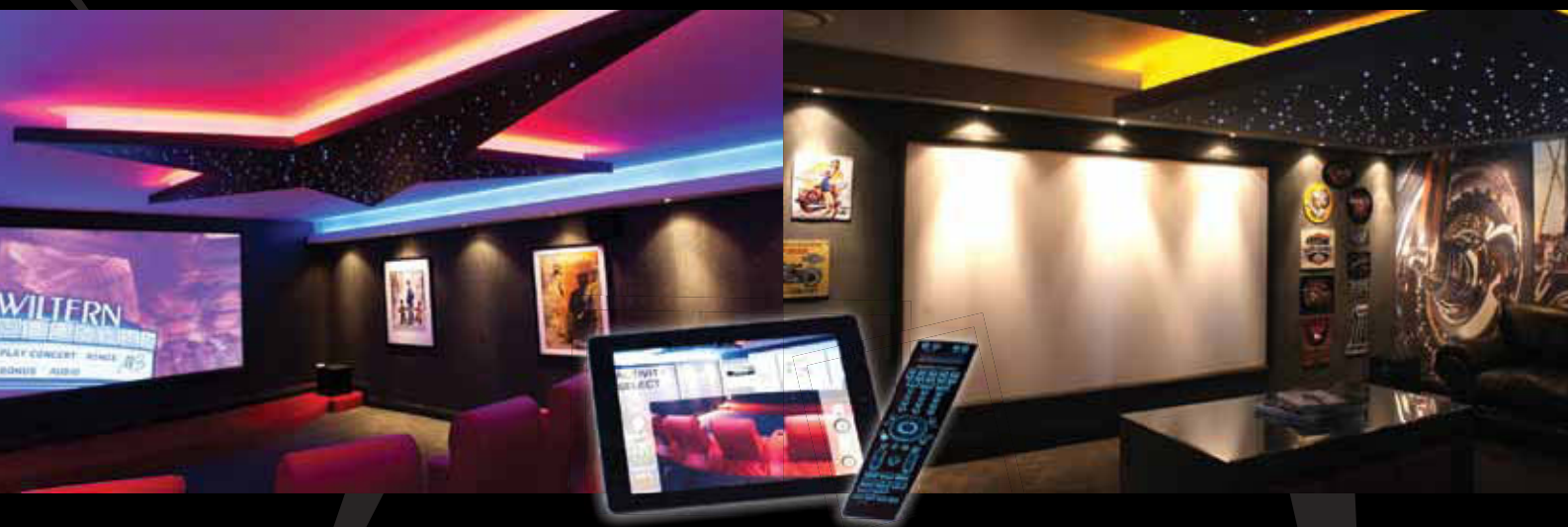
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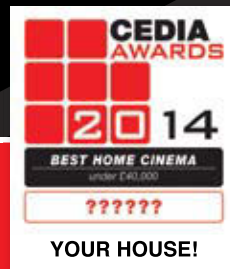
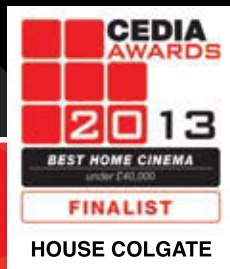


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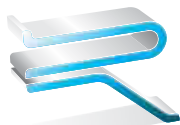


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PROJECT CONSULTANTS DEBBIE ZEELIE AND WADOEDA BRENNER
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID ROSS AND BAREND ROBERTS



NICO VAN DER MEULEN ARCHITECTS 011 789 5242

The owners' brief to Nico van der Meulen Architects was to transform a modest, single-storey house into a light-filled, open-plan contemporary home. As most of the rooms of the original house were dark, with limited views and restricted access to the garden, the main objective of the design was to ensure every room benefited from natural light. To achieve this, the architects replaced the original tile roof with a floating roof, which also provides northern sun in winter, and installed expanses of glass, along with large sliding doors, which also maximise views of the outdoors and allow access to the garden. This successful interaction between the outside and inside is most notable in the seamless space created by the open-plan living area, lanai, or open-sided verandah, and garden, which also features a water feature and swimming pool. The steel and concrete finishes used throughout the home add to the modern feel of the property.



INVESTBO CONSTRUCTION 082 736 4447



STREAMLIGHT 011 440 4142



ABOVE LEFT: Investbo Construction managed the construction of this house. As the architects created a contemporary style that integrates lots of glass, steel and concrete, the construction company ensured that all of the building materials were brought together according to the design requirements, to achieve an aesthetically pleasing result.

LEFT: Working hand-in-hand with the architect and interior designer, Streamlight set out to ensure the home's design features would be highlighted as much at night as during the day. The company layered the lighting in the home, installing functional lighting where required, and adding soft lighting elements to create the desired ambience.

Entering this airy, light-filled home, you'd never imagine it was once a modest, dark house with limited access to the outdoors, or even a view.

Guided by the owners' wish for an open-plan, contemporary home, Werner van der Meulen of Nico van der Meulen Architects along with M Square Lifestyle Design and M Square Lifestyle Necessities, conceptualised a design that incorporates as much natural light as possible, and offers comfort, luxury and functionality in a modern setting.

The original single-storey pitched roof was replaced with a floating flat roof, which illuminates the open-plan living area, while a passage roof lets in the sun from the north, and the inclusion of an atrium on the south side of the house allows for morning light and ventilates the area naturally.

A mezzanine study overlooks the garden. This is accessed from the living area by a steel staircase, which is framed by grey tinted glass and forms an architectural feature in itself.

Achieving continuity has been a major focus of the project. In designing the interior, the designers set out to complement the architectural vision of the house, so that the exterior and inside of the house merge seamlessly.

A monochromatic palette of warm neutral colours has been used throughout, which is tranquil in its simplicity and doesn't detract from any of the focal points of the house. Designer furniture and decor has been sourced from all over the world, and chosen to match the contemporary style of the home and to be comfortable and practical for a family.

For interest, the interior designers played with



ABOVE RIGHT: Anstey Steynberg designed the landscape as a thematic extension of the architectural intent. The subtle colour palette and tranquillity in the use of water balance the composition. Anstey Steynberg is a multi-disciplinary company, delivering turnkey construction projects, including building, project management, architecture, interior design and landscape architecture.

RIGHT: The aluminium windows and doors in Umber Grey were manufactured and installed by Q1 Aluminium and Glass, to suit the contemporary style of the home. By incorporating large glass sliding doors, the architects have made sure that almost every room has direct access to the garden.



ANSTEY STEYNBERG 076 663 3212



Q1 ALUMINIUM AND GLASS 082 380 3941

texture, such as mixing leather furniture with fabric sofas in the open-plan living area, and combining a lustrous glass counter with off-shutter concrete walls in the dining space. The oak cabinetry adds dimension to the largely glossy kitchen.

This oak panelling, also used in the entrance, is followed through in the living area, concealing the guest bathroom and the garage doors. Applying the same material in all of these areas enhances the connectivity between the spaces, to achieve the desired fluidity.

In the main bedroom, horizontal louvres behind the bed echo those used on the outside of the building. The en-suite bathroom, again featuring horizontal slats, is a luxurious space, with his and hers basins, combined shower and toilet, and bath with a view of the garden.

In fact, the architects ensured that almost every room has access to the garden, either through high-level windows, which create a sense of spaciousness, or large glass sliding doors. When open, the doors offer an uninterrupted flow

A monochromatic palette of warm neutral colours has been used throughout, which is tranquil in its simplicity and doesn't detract from any of the focal points of the house

M SQUARE LIFESTYLE DESIGN 011 789 5242

Using a simple monochromatic palette, M Square Lifestyle Design has created a sleek, streamlined interior for the living room. The wall unit houses the fireplace and TV, and cleverly conceals the guest restroom and garage doors. M Square Lifestyle Design was founded by Nico van der Meulen Architects to offer clients a seamless design, one in which the interior spaces complement the exterior of the home, and the design is seen as one. The company's scope of work encompasses the detailed design and specifications of all interior elements, including kitchens, bathrooms, lighting, cabinetry, and wall and floor finishes.



M SQUARE LIFESTYLE NECESSITIES 011 447 0807

The furniture for this home was selected from M Square Lifestyle Necessities, an interior design and decor showroom that was formed in association with Nico van der Meulen Architects. M Square Lifestyle Necessities sources items from around the world, from designers such as B&B Italia, Ligne Pure, Molteni & C and Roda, to provide its clients with the highest-quality furniture and decor to define the space. Here, in the open-plan living area, the furniture is sophisticated, yet practical, contributing to the comfortable luxury that the architects and interior designers envisioned for the project as a whole.



between the interior of the house and the outdoors. The landscapers developed the garden as an extension of the house for this very purpose.

As with the colour scheme indoors, the plant palette has been kept simple – green, white, orange and red – with different foliage shapes and untreated steel planters

adding interest, but in keeping with the linear structure of the architecture. Picture an evening outside on the lanai, with the doors wide open to the warm glow of the interior, and the soothing sound of the nearby water feature, and it's clear the architects have made the owners' wish come true. 🏡



CHERUBINOS 078 377 9404

LEFT: The off-shutter concrete walls in the open-plan kitchen and dining area were designed to complement the grey tones and strong lines of the house, to great effect. The industrial-style wall application has been created from Cemcrete Cemplaster by Cherubinos, an approved specialist in Cemcrete applications.

BELOW: The kitchen is a generous cooking space, designed by blu_line to meet the functional demands of modern living, while retaining an elegant aesthetic appeal. The island is a combination of white high-gloss and a practical charcoal stone, which has been used for the work surface. The tall units in a textured finish provide depth and interest to the space, and the customised floating glass seating area is an ideal spot to gather for a relaxed meal.



BLU_LINE 086 054 8464



RADIANT SHOWERS 011 708 3081



TOP: All of the showers in the residence have been custom-made by Radiant Showers, a division of Radiant Glass Concepts that specialises in the design, manufacture and installation of high-quality shower enclosures. Here, in the main bedroom's en-suite bathroom, the enclosure for the combination toilet and shower has been made of grey-tinted safety glass, which is both luxurious and practical. The company also supplied and installed the home's frameless pivot front door, which creates a stylish welcome.

CONTACT:

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BLU_LINE – kitchens
086 054 8464, info@blu-line.co.za, www.blu-line.co.za
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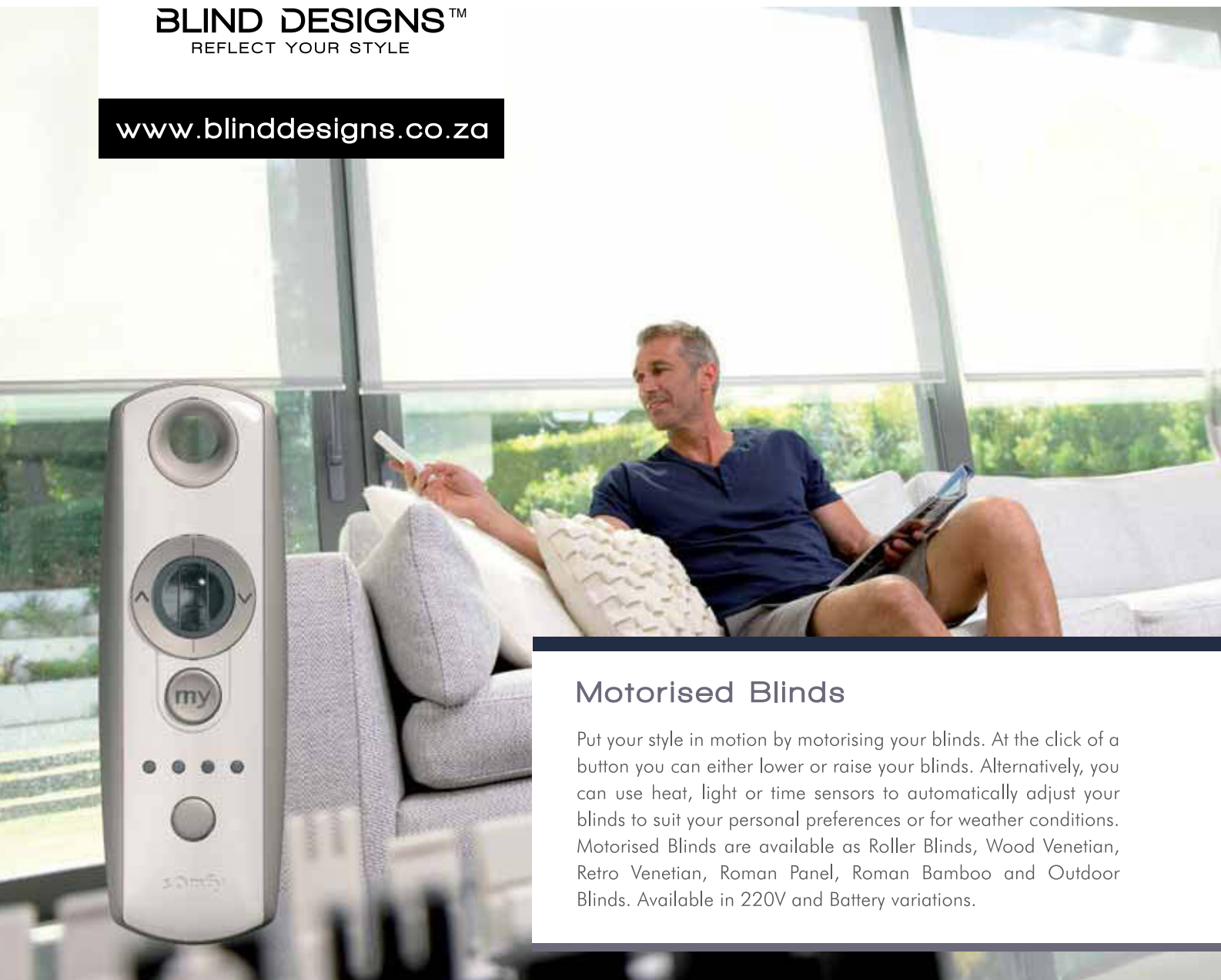
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ON THE WATER'S EDGE

BY TRISHA HARINATH
PROJECT CONSULTANT CANDICE JIN
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY NIC BALETA



BUILD INN 012 804 3595

Build Inn specialises in garage doors, roller shutters and Xpanda security solutions for residential, commercial and industrial applications. The company was contracted by the builders to supply the modern garage doors and security shutters, which not only provide these home owners with peace of mind, but also enhance the appearance of the home. Build Inn focuses on supplying and installing quality garage doors to the housing and building market, and provides some of the highest-quality garage doors in Gauteng.

There is something so healing about water, which is why people flock to the coast for rest and rejuvenation. So to be the owners of this property and have direct access to the canals that filter through this estate, one could be considered fortunate indeed.

There are many highlights to this contemporary home – yet you can't help going back to the location and its

proximity to the canals. With these forming a focal feature of the property, the owners decided on a design that would take advantage of the water, as well as the glorious views. And so an unpretentious, yet tastefully designed and decorated home was born.

"The home was designed to have large balconies leading off every room, to take in the views, and an infinity swimming pool runs along the length of the



BELOW: Mildo Projects is a specialist in the aluminium industry, manufacturing aluminium windows and doors, and offering conversions from steel or wood to aluminium, in one day. Established in 2000 by Andre van Heerden, the company has steadily gained a reputation for excellent service and high-quality aluminium products. Mildo Projects was called on to supply palace sliding doors, corner butt-jointed windows and fixtures, the Low E energy-efficient glass, as well as the laminated glass for this home.

MILDO PROJECTS 011 760 4950



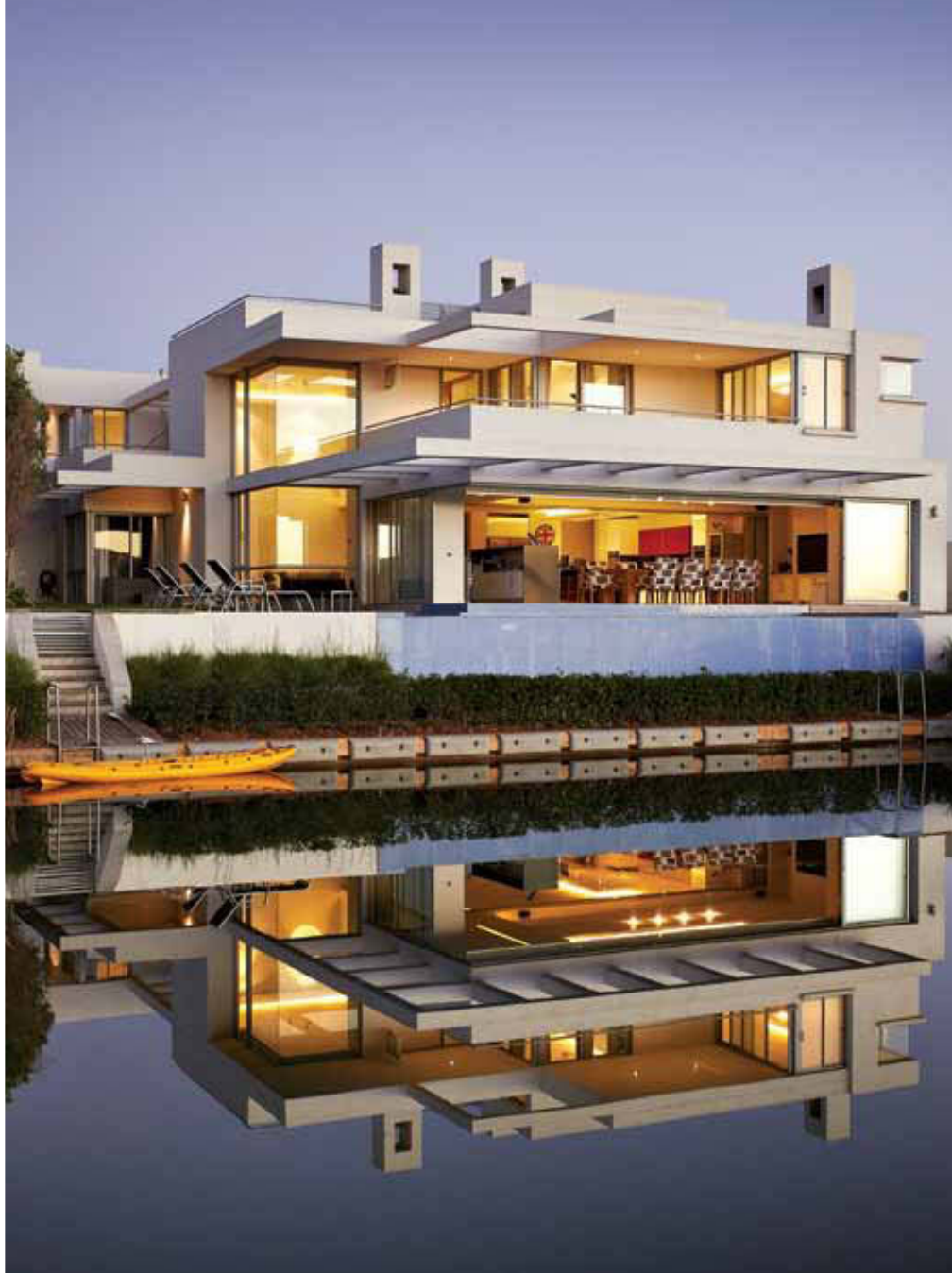
property, giving off the appearance that we are connected to the canals," explains the owner.

But if you can pull yourself inside for just a moment and leave the water behind, you will find that, in its simplicity, this is a home that captures the heart and mind of even the most discerning guest.

Its modern architecture complements its contemporary interiors – the ample use of glass makes for airy and bright, sunbathed rooms that have been dressed with just the right type of furniture and finishes. "The architecture shows off modern, clean lines with an almost resort-like feel, with white walls reflecting the glowing blue of the water at night," adds the owner.

A muted colour palette, accented by modest lighting, gives new meaning to "rooms with a mood", while a selection of soft fabrics produces a sensual experience.

BELOW LEFT: Made from aluminium, which is durable and low-maintenance, and motorised for ease of operation, the sleek garage doors and security shutters provide added value to this impressive property. Powder-coated in New Silver, the doors and shutters, supplied by Build Inn, add to the cutting-edge aesthetic of this home.



BUILD INN 012 804 3595





SUMMERS INCREATION 082 600 1595



INOVAR FLOOR 0860 346 356



LIMITLESS KITCHENS 011 791 0897

ABOVE LEFT: Summers InCreation worked with the client to create a relaxed, comfortable space. By opting to use cabinetry, furniture, fixtures and finishes that show off simple lines, the company created a clean, contemporary look. The owner of the company, Julia Summers, was also responsible for the paintings featured in the entrance hall and master bedroom.

ABOVE RIGHT: Inovar Floor supplied and installed the Kahlua Oak flooring from its Supreme AC3/W31 laminate range. With a 10-year heavy-domestic-use warranty and a five-year commercial-use warranty, each plank is finished with square edges and a wood-grain surface. Available countrywide from Inovar Floor franchises, Supreme laminates are anti-allergy, environmentally friendly and low-maintenance.

LEFT: The contemporary kitchen with high-gloss white laminate cupboards and vanities, and Piatra grey Caesarstone countertops, was designed, manufactured and installed by Limitless Kitchens. In keeping with the client's requirements, the countertops have been created with a "waterfall" effect over the edges, to "wrap" the cabinetry, for a sleek look.

"The open-plan living, dining and kitchen area has been created as a space where we entertain family and friends often, while enjoying the views," says the owner. And it is not hard to see why this is considered the sanctuary area – clean lines dominate an open space, modern furniture is used to define each area, and pops of colour bring a playful ambience to this section of the home.

Contemporary artworks embrace selected walls, and centrepieces such as the oversized Dachshund sculpture and steel chest, which serves as a coffee table, illustrate these owners' love for all things modern and trendy.



LIMITLESS KITCHENS 011 791 0897

ABOVE: Limitless Kitchens was responsible for the cabinetry, countertops, sinks, mixers and accessories. For an added splash of colour in the kitchen, some of the glass doors were lined with red vinyl. The company also supplied the walnut veneer countertops, to soften the feel and add a bit of warmth in the lounge.

“The open-plan living, dining and kitchen area has been created as a space where we entertain family and friends often, while enjoying the views”





SEVENS 011 691 7700

AUDICODES 082 500 9652

ABOVE: The contemporary home and office furniture was supplied by Sevens Designs. In keeping with the owners' brief for a home that is light and bright, and with warm, natural finishes, spaces were created that make one feel right at home. Featured here are the Trapesium bed and pedestals, which are manufactured from reclaimed Indonesian teak.

In order to create the perfect, relaxed lifestyle that these owners desired, as a finishing touch and highlight they decided that the home wasn't complete without a home automation system. The automation system was installed by Audiocodes, and enables these home owners to enjoy all of life's pleasures at the touch of a button.



In the dining room, an impressive wooden table is flanked on all sides by comfortable dining chairs upholstered in fabric patterned with the Union Jack. And serving as the backdrop to this area, a large glass panel frames the view and provides the perfect picture while wining and dining family and friends.

To have a property situated on the water's edge is a luxury on its own, and it's no wonder these residents feel as if they are on holiday every time they come home. 🏡

CONTACT:

AUDICODES – home automation
082 500 9652, marc@smartbus.co.za

BUILD INN – garage doors, security shutters
011 804 1336, sales@buildinn.co.za, www.buildinn.co.za

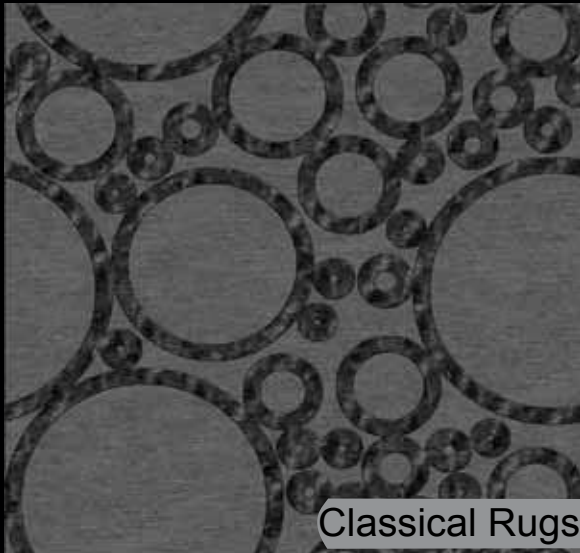
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LIMITLESS KITCHENS – kitchens and cabinetry
011 791 0897, leana@limitlesskitchens.co.za,
www.limitlesskitchens.co.za

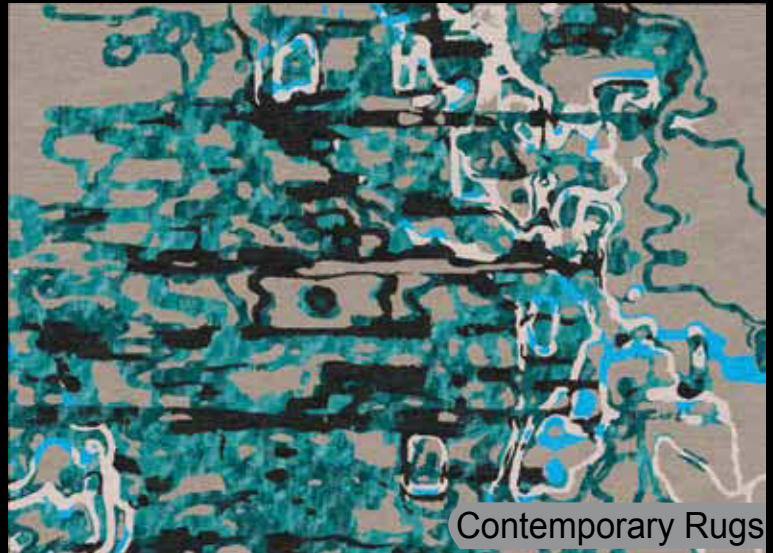
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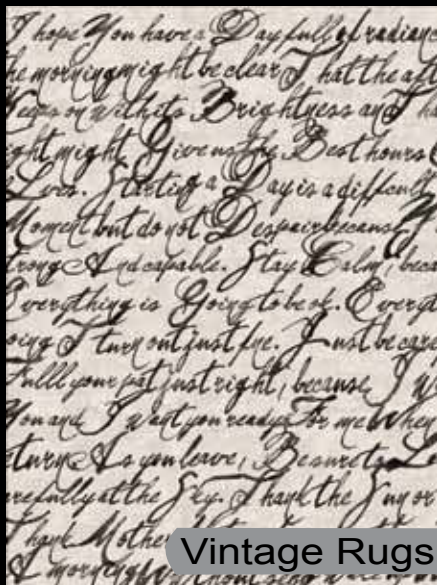
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IT'S IN THE DETAILS

BY JESS BINNS
PROJECT CONSULTANT AVRIL ELIAS
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CATHERINE DE VINCENZO
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS ALLAN





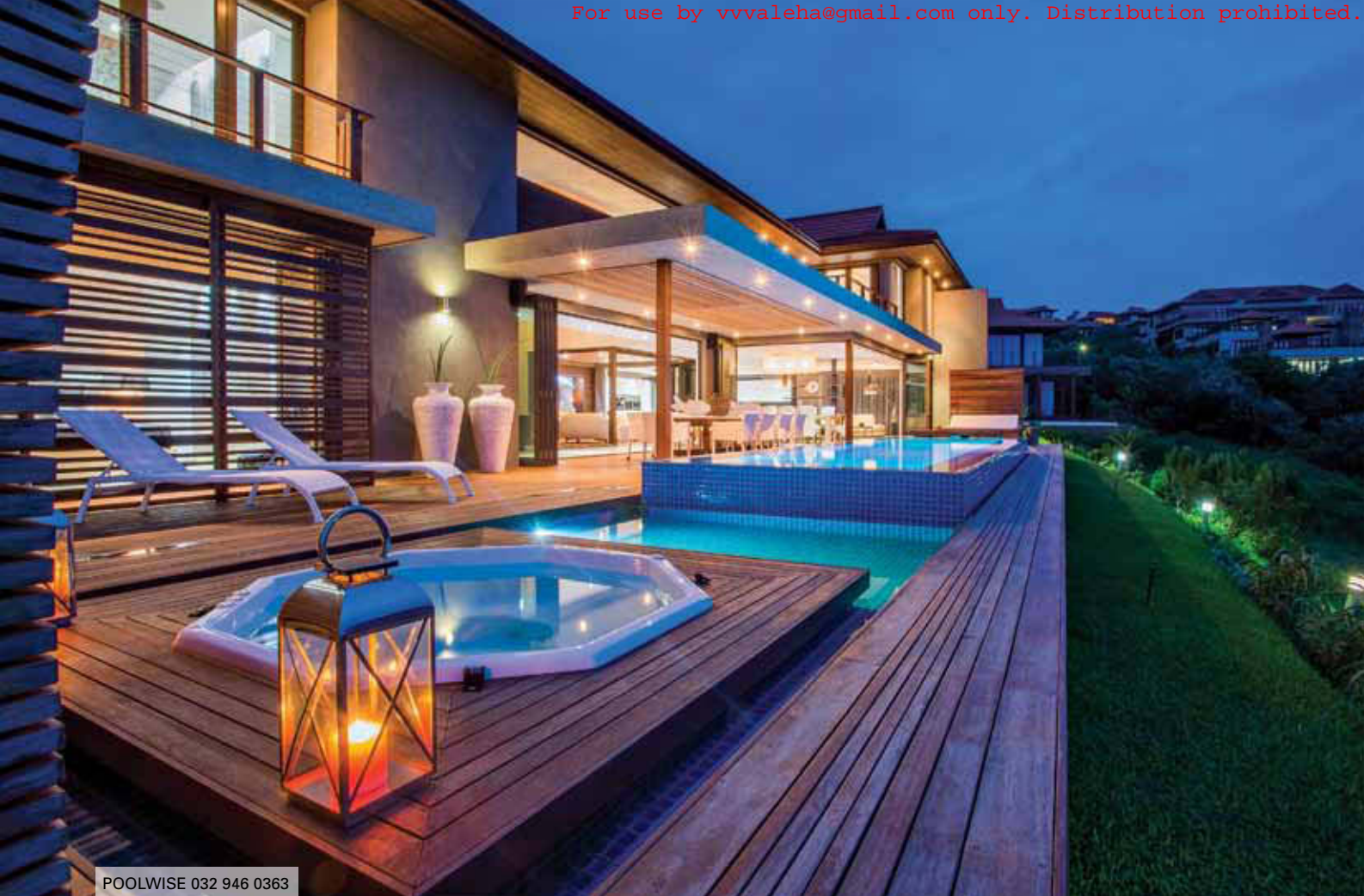
CHANTEL VILJOEN 083 571 5152



TOP: The vision and design for this house were created by architectural designer Chantel Viljoen. Chantel's brief from the property developer was to produce a home that excelled in all areas of design and maximised saleability. She was given free rein to add unique ideas, such as the inner courtyard off the master bedroom, and she cut no corners in producing the ultimate family residence. The end product was a complete, home, ready for furnishings to complement the new owners' style and identity.

It took one look for this Johannesburg-based family to know that this was the home they had been searching for. Standing proud among the typical Bali-style houses, this modern gem shone brightly as something unique and special.

The essence of Zimbali, a coastal estate set on the northern shores of KwaZulu-Natal, is present in the use of large timber-slatted screens and the trademark Bali-style roofs, which ensure this property tows the design line. It was the architectural designer, who designed the house on behalf of the property developer, and was given complete creative licence on the project.



POOLWISE 032 946 0363

ABOVE: Specified by the architectural designer, Poolwise completed the white fibre lining, as well as the relevant plumbing, pool pump, filter and lights for this show-stopping pool. Based in Ballito, Poolwise offers a complete pool service, from repairs to newly built pools or the renovation of existing ones.

RIGHT: To complement the stylish outdoor dining area, the owner opted for a Syam 304 Stainless Steel Cuisine six-burner gas braai. The brushed finish softens the look, contrasting well with the surrounding timber cladding. Syam offers a wide range of gas and charcoal braais, in addition to gas, biofuel and wood-burning indoor fireplaces, and outdoor gas firepits.

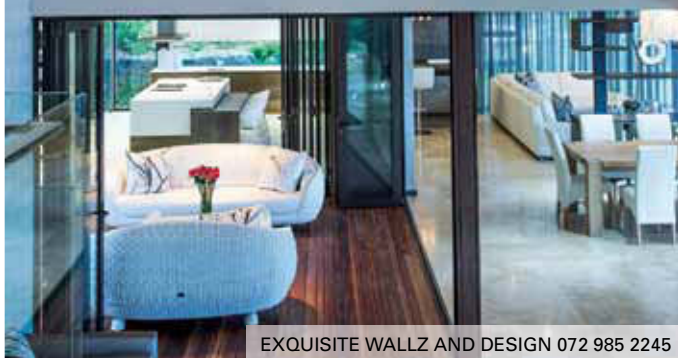
Having freedom over the architecture, detailing and finishes, she focused on a design that created the ultimate “entertainer’s dream”. A spacious kitchen opens up onto a verandah, featuring a built-in braai and water feature. This provides a clever permanent shelter from the coastal winds, and also a place in which to cosy up with friends.

The outstanding feature of the home, however, has to be the expansive master bedroom, with a private courtyard leading off the en suite. At 116m², it is almost a designer apartment within the house. With contemporary furnishings, it’s not surprising it’s the owner’s favourite area; it’s a place where you can lose yourself and unwind in the elegant freestanding bath, while enjoying the slate-clad garden outside.

Much detail has gone into making each room as visually exciting as the next. Neutrals were used throughout, in a combination of dark and lighter greys, whites, natural timber hues and travertine tiles. 3D art panels were introduced to



SYAM DISTRIBUTORS 0861 792 672



EXQUISITE WALLZ AND DESIGN 072 985 2245



LEFT: The bespoke, handmade chandeliers are the work of Exquisite Wallz and Design, a Johannesburg and Durban-based company that specialises in one-off chandeliers and specialist wall treatments, and offers an interior consultancy service. In total, seven individual chandeliers were produced for this home, mainly from capiz shells, recycled glass and wooden beads.

BELOW: Working with the natural light and a neutral backdrop, Kitchen Classics set about producing this remarkable kitchen, using imported, high-gloss white cabinetry alongside dark grey-stained oak veneer. Modern, yet timeless in its approach, Kitchen Classics' design ethos is one of functionality paired with top-quality finishes.

KITCHEN CLASSICS 031 539 3351





VICTORIA + ALBERT 023 347 4939

ABOVE: The finishing touch given to this bathroom was the inclusion of a Ravello Victoria + Albert freestanding bath. The ultimate in style and quality, Victoria + Albert's bath and basin-ware is crafted from 100% quarrycast. This makes for a unique, tactile experience, adding that touch of luxury for which the company is known.

RIGHT: The Geberit concealed cistern was installed behind contrasting wood cladding, creating a clean, uncluttered space that is not only pleasing to the eye, but functional too. The modern lines of the square toilet, together with the striking white Geberit Sigma50 flush actuator plate, enhance the overall look of the bathroom.

break the walls with unusual textures, providing interesting backdrops. This made the process of furnishing the home a little easier for the owners, with their own signature contemporary style.

The ease of flow within the house continues out onto the deck area, where a 360° rim-flow pool is finished in bright cobalt tiles, and the floating detail of the timber deck steps up to the edge adds interest.

Low and high-slung linear windows make an appearance in the kitchen, flooding the space with natural light. The wall cabinetry appears to "float" in front of the window, as the smoky tones of the oak contrast well with the fresh white glossy surfaces. All appliances are neatly contained to add to the visual pleasure of this functional space.

With friends also living in Zimbali, the owners spend a substantial amount of time entertaining, but, equally, they chose the house to get away from it all, safe within a well-run resort, where their lifestyle isn't compromised.



GEBERIT SOUTHERN AFRICA 011 444 5070



CASARREDO 011 786 6940

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CONTACT:

CASARREDO – interior decor and design
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www.casarredo.co.za

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EXQUISITE WALLZ AND DESIGN – chandeliers and wall treatments
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www.exquisitewallzanddesign.co.za

GEBERIT SOUTHERN AFRICA – concealed cisterns
011 444 5070, sales.za@geberit.com, www.geberit.co.za

KITCHEN CLASSICS – kitchens and cabinetry
031 539 3351, rob@kitchenclassics.co.za,
www.kitchenclassics.co.za

ABOVE: Being a regular client of Casarredo, the owner called on their interior decor team to assist with certain furnishings and accessories for his home. Specialising in the importing of luxury Italian brands, Casarredo specified the white leather Cocoon bed, to add texture against the backdrop of wood. The bed's unique shape makes a striking statement, contrasting with the other structured elements in the room. The stainless-steel side tables used as pedestals enhance the modern style, offering a functional height for the elevated bed position.

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NO BOUNDARIES

BY ESTHER MOLOI
PROJECT CONSULTANT MONIQUE RANKINE
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY NIC BALETA

Serengeti Nature and Golf Estate is one of the most natural and tranquil developments in Gauteng. Its great infrastructure and security offer home owners peace of mind, while allowing them to enjoy a home surrounded by nature.

"The sense of security, lifestyle and architectural aesthetic inspired the creation of our home," the owner says. "We wanted a home that offered a space which is homely, secure and personal."

The home is a true reflection of the owners' sense of style, which influenced their desire to have a home that flowed from the inside to the outdoors. The architecture took into account both the architectural guidelines of the estate and the home owners' needs, and included the introduction of natural light and height, as large panes of glass open up the space.

The home is open-plan, with the bedroom flowing seamlessly into the bathroom. The entrance links into

RIGHT: This home is well insulated; double-glazing was used on both the windows and sliding doors, keeping the home cool in summer and warm in winter. These custom-made sliding windows and doors slide in either direction to allow for maximum opening and versatility. All Fenster Aluminium products have a multi-point, concealed locking system, and the glazing can be laminated to provide maximum security against break-ins. Only the best-quality, European components are used to create a contemporary finish. Fenster has more than 25 years' experience and has expanded nationwide. The company prides itself on working with clients to design custom-made solutions.

BELOW: State-of-the-art European products were used to supply solar central heating and solar power to this home. A centralised solar system offers hot water, underfloor heating, towel rail heating and swimming pool heating. A solar photovoltaic system was also installed in order to supply the house with solar power.



FENSTER ALUMINIUM 011 796 5165



SONNENKRAFT SA 011 326 3956







BLIND DESIGNS BY BLIND RAGE 011 425 6007

LEFT: Blind Designs' motorised roller blinds were installed in the home to provide a simple, yet functional solution to home insulation. The SheerWeave fabric used is versatile, maintaining the inside temperature of the home, while providing privacy during the day. Blind Designs products from Blind Rage were used for the window coverings in the home.

The home is a true reflection of the owners' sense of style, which influenced their desire to have a home that flowed from the inside to the outdoors.

the kitchen, dining and entertainment area, which then leads guests out on to the terrace.

"There are no dividing lines between the functions of these spaces, and we love enjoying this area with

family and friends. It can also be a lovely, quiet space that you can enjoy alone," notes the home owner.

"I think the outside terrace leading into the garden, with the boma overlooking the lake, is a



RIGHT: The home owners wanted a kitchen that would suit their young, modern family. Clean lines, no handles and integrated ATAG appliances defined the look, which was achieved by combining “face grain” walnut with Black Satin Duco and Soda Limestone. Easylife Kitchens also installed built-in cupboards throughout the house.

BELOW LEFT: Linea Brigio, a retail specialist in bathroomware, was responsible for the supply of sanitaryware in this home. The Duravit Ketho range in graphite was the colour chosen for the cabinetry and furniture in the bathroom. This was paired with modern basins, and baths from the Duravit range.



EASYLIFE KITCHENS RANDBURG 011 791 6812

pleasure to take in; it just brings that outside living even closer to home. It’s one of the things that makes me look forward to coming home.” The house was built with sustainable energy in mind, offering solar energy options, which allow it to function off the grid. 🏡

CONTACT:

BLIND DESIGNS BY BLIND RAGE – blinds and curtains
011 425 6007, sales@blindrage.co.za, www.blindrage.co.za

EASYLIFE KITCHENS RANDBURG – kitchens and cabinetry
011 791 6812, randburg@easylife.co.za, www.easylifekitchens.co.za

FENSTER ALUMINIUM – windows and doors
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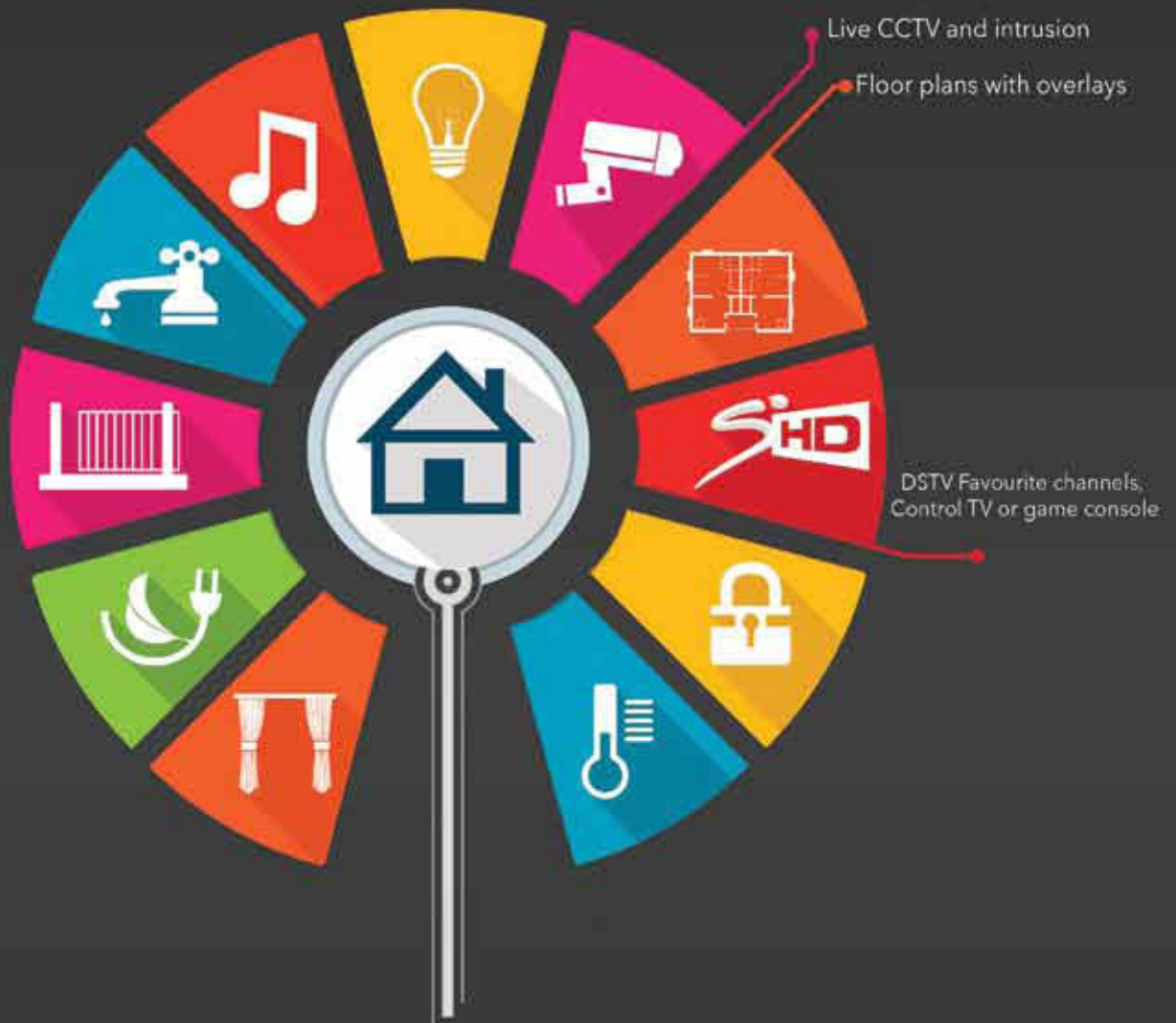
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LIVING LIFE IN STYLE

BY TRISHA HARINATH
PROJECT CONSULTANT CANDICE JIN
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY IRMA BOSCH





4D AND A ARCHITECTS 011 880 4754

ABOVE: The architectural brief for this project called for a modern family home with en-suite bedrooms, a large, open-plan living/dining/entertainment/bar area, and an expansive covered patio and pool. 4D and A Architects made use of a variety of natural materials to create a home that is in line with current trends.

RIGHT: In keeping with the architecture of the home, and providing ideal protection from the sun, as well as privacy, these Blind Designs SheerWeave roller blinds were supplied by Blind Rage. The company was also responsible for supplying the Somfy motors, and made all of the curtains for the home as well.

Set in the sprawling Serengeti Nature and Golf Estate, this home has been built with the “ideal” lifestyle in mind. In fact, according to the owner, it was the lifestyle that the estate offered that served as the catalyst for the creation of this family home.

Serengeti is known for its natural and lush surroundings, prime golf facilities and outstanding architectural aesthetic, all within a secured establishment. And with the wonders of nature right on your doorstep, it is not hard to see how inspiration for building a dream home can materialise with such ease. The renowned architect, who translated the brief by integrating the guidelines of the estate with the owners’ requirements, created a home that is truly short of nothing.

There are many focal features and architectural highlights throughout the home, but for these residents, the public space is the heart and sanctuary. This largely open-plan hub is made up of the kitchen, dining room and entertainment area, which

BLIND DESIGNS BY BLIND RAGE 011 425 6007





FENSTER ALUMINIUM 011 796 5165

In order to achieve the spaciousness that this home required, Fenster Aluminium was called in for its expert advice and superior-quality, European windows and doors. Large-format sliding doors provided the home owner with maximum open access to the patio. The sliding panels are versatile in that they can move in either direction and are not limited to a fixed panel.

Aluminium handles control the concealed multi-point locking system, for a contemporary finish with maximum security. Fenster has more than 25 years' experience and has expanded nationwide. The company prides itself on working with clients to design custom-made solutions.



LEFT: Sonnenkraft SA specialises in turnkey solar thermal and photovoltaic solutions for water heating, underfloor heating/cooling (water-based), pool heating and solar power grid/tie battery systems. For this home, a centralised European solar heating system was installed to supply hot water, underfloor heating and pool heating, as well as a solar power system for electricity.

BELOW LEFT: Extending the luxury of this shower are the floors, which were supplied by Balaneion, a company that specialises in the manufacture of Aqua Slabs, a shower floor for the discerning buyer. The slabs were manufactured using a composite of resin and mineral fillers for an end product that is both durable and timeless.

BELOW: This kitchen features a combination of Apache Dawn satin duco, Ice Limestone and solid "end-grain" walnut. For added convenience, all drawers are fitted with Blum Intivo runners and the Tip-On opening system. The kitchen showcases the latest technology with ATAG-integrated appliances, and is an example of Easylife Kitchens' quality workmanship.



leads out on to the terrace. The owner says it has been dubbed the “heart of the home” as it “defines what a house should be, where one is comfortable within the space, and it functions to all the requirements we wanted when we were looking to create a home”.

Decorated with items of only the best quality, the home, with its minimal look, focuses the attention of the residents and their guests on what truly stands out – the natural landscape that flows seamlessly as one looks out through the many glass windows and sliding doors. You can’t help but get the impression that the views, and the golf course, have been framed by the large expanses of glass.

The owner believes the bar receives most of the attention, but adds that the various display spaces were essential, especially for his Delft House collection. He adds: “The home is also self-sustainable and can function off-grid; therefore the introduction of a plant room, which accommodates these essential services, is a must-see.”

And one of the biggest lessons he has learned during this experience? “Future-proof your home as much as possible, so should you need to add additional services in the future, you can, with minimal fuss and disruption,” he advises. 🏡

CONTACT:

4D AND A ARCHITECTS – architecture

011 880 4754, 4da@4da.co.za, www.4da.co.za,

BALANEION MINERAL CAST PRODUCTS – shower floors

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BLIND DESIGNS BY BLIND RAGE – window coverings

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EASYLIFE KITCHENS RANDBURG – kitchens and cabinetry

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PHOTOGRAPHY KEITH QUIXLEY





JZE ARCHITECTS 021 686 7798



4D BUILDING CONSTRUCTION 082 456 4212

ABOVE LEFT: JZE Architects was formed in 2010. With more than 20 years of industry experience among the three partners, they are able to provide expert advice on various projects. They were responsible for the creative design of this modern home, with inspiration drawn from the privileged site position, and in keeping with energy-efficient design.

LEFT: 4D Building Construction caters for all building needs, from new builds and alterations to 3D architectural rendering, painting, general maintenance, plumbing and drainage. This project was a contemporary, open-plan house that they built from the ground up, and it was the first time that the company had been asked to build a shed roof design.

The couple, who are both doctors by profession, weren't surprised at my awe of the encompassing trees and mountain views from every angle.

Nestled in what can only be described as the perfect position for a home, is this modern new build in Tokai. The couple, who are both doctors by profession, weren't surprised at my awe of the encompassing trees and mountain views from every angle. They say it's what made them fall in love with the piece of land in the first place.

The double-storey took eight months to build, and is centred on the couple's love for modern design, clean lines, simplicity in everything, and the incessant need, for this space in particular, to blend the indoors with the outdoors.

The lower level, with flawless flow, houses the majority of the living area and one downstairs guest bedroom en

suite. The open-plan kitchen overlooks their favourite room in the house, the informal lounge, and allows cooking to become an inclusive part of entertaining family and friends.

Upstairs, the three other luxe bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms have spectacular feature windows near the ceiling, overlooking the tops of the engulfing trees and flooding the house with natural light.

The entertainment and braai area outside is the core of the house.

For a couple who love to entertain and are planning to have children, you couldn't ask for a house that better fits their brief: modern, light and a house that, at all times, credits its natural surroundings. 🏡



MULTISHOPFITTERS AND STORE DESIGNERS 021 715 0438

CONTACT:

4D BUILDING CONSTRUCTION – construction
082 456 4212, sharief@4d-group.co.za

JZE ARCHITECTS – architects
021 686 7798, info@jzearch.co.za, www.jzearch.co.za

MULTISHOPFITTERS AND STORE DESIGNERS – furniture
021 715 0438, multishop@telkomsa.net,
www.multishopfitters.co.za

SAMBO GRANITE – quartz
021 638 0531, nazleya@sambogranite.co.za,
www.sambogranite.co.za

ABOVE RIGHT: Multishopfitters and Store Designers is a small business established in 1998. In this house, all of the furniture was custom-made and installed by them. They cater for all markets, and also offer project management services with the aim of finding creative solutions to reflect their clients' visions and needs.

BELOW: Sambo Granite is a supplier of engineered quartz. For this home, the company supplied and installed all of the quartz countertops in the bathrooms and kitchen. Supa-stone Artic White 30mm offered a clean, modern finish. Sambo Granite prides itself on its professionalism and customer service.

SAMBO GRANITE 021 638 0531



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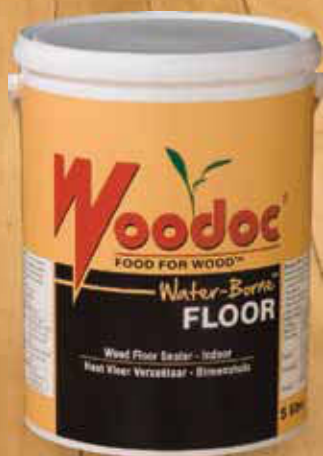
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IN PERFECT BALANCE

BY JOSIE EVELEIGH
PROJECT CONSULTANT DEBBIE ZEELIE
PROPERTY COORDINATOR WADOEDA BRENNER
PHOTOGRAPHY KEITH QUIXLEY



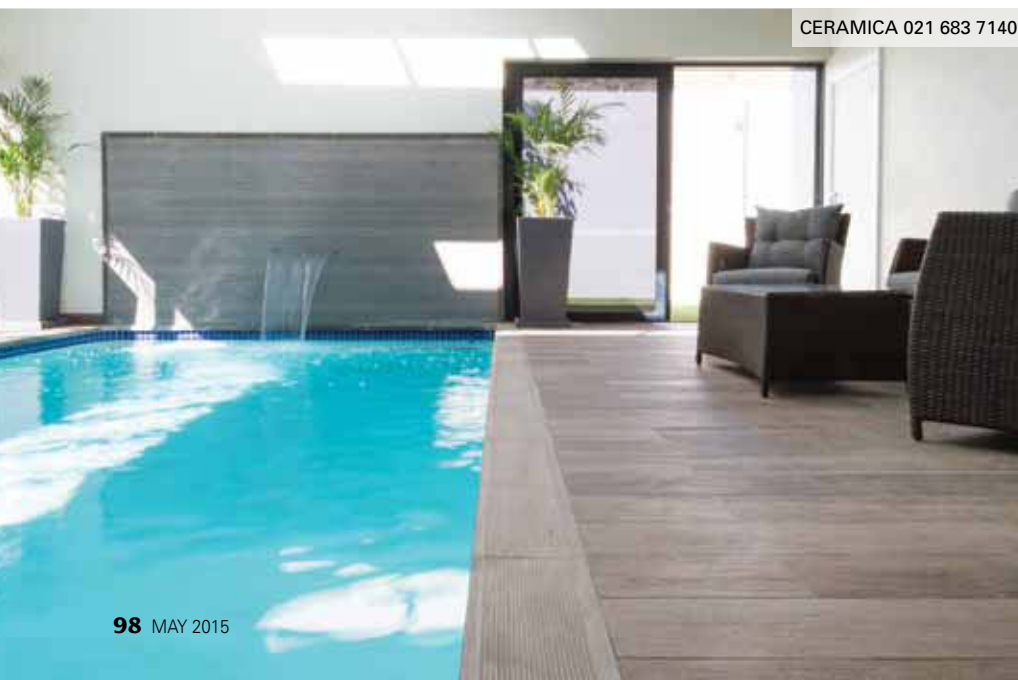
WISE BUILDERS 021 671 8145

Situated in the beautiful Baronetcy Estate, this home perfectly blends family living with modern design. It's a house built around entertaining, and the couple, who have two young sons, couldn't be happier in their new home.

The initial idea was to renovate their old property, but after realising they'd be over-capitalising, the idea of this home was born.

One year later, and a building process that involved the whole family and was a learning curve for all, this house is able to seamlessly mesh a world of fun for the boys with modern-chic decor and design.

With an indoor pool, mini cricket pitch and bedrooms with colour palettes they've chosen, the boys are in their element, and it's undoubtedly the house to which all of their friends flock to over the weekends.



CERAMICA 021 683 7140

ABOVE: Wise Builders specialises in the building and project management of new homes, renovations and commercial construction, in addition to maintenance work. The company was responsible for the construction of this three-storey home, making use of aluminium windows and doors in a charcoal colour for a modern look.

LEFT: Ceramica has been furnishing homes and businesses across Africa for over a decade. From tiles and flooring to sanitaryware and taps, the company has all the makings for your stylish home or office. Based in Claremont, the store carries a wide range of styles that offer ideal finishes for dream kitchens, bathrooms and more.

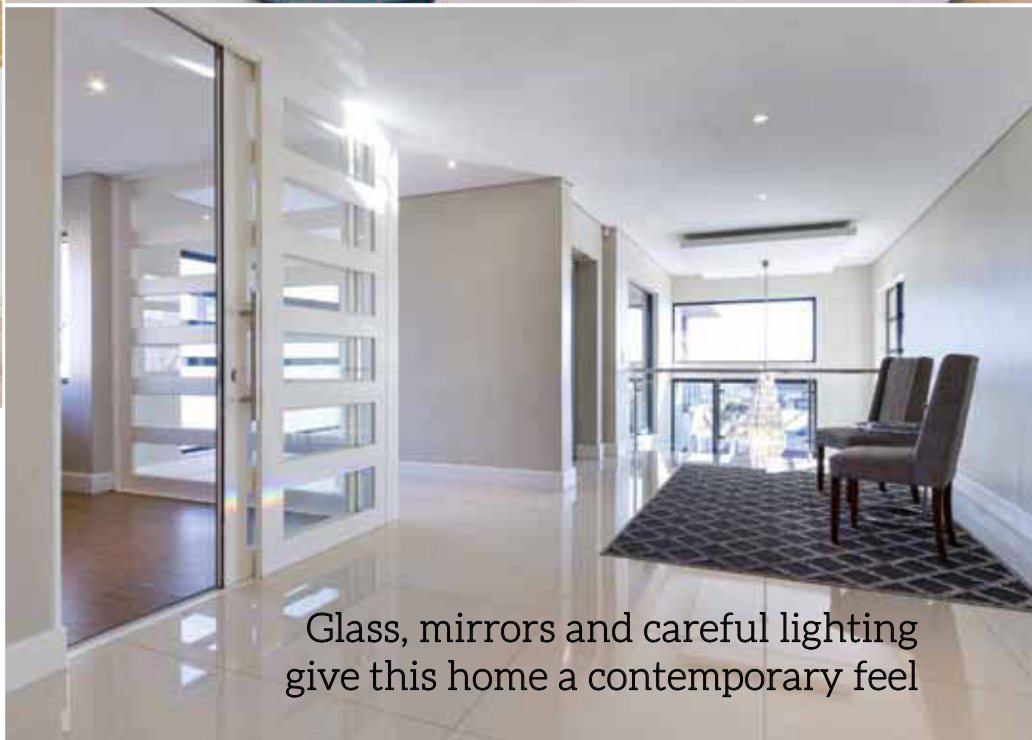


The couple admit to their bedroom being their favourite room; it has beautiful views of the city lights, with Table Mountain hanging like a canvas against the wall.

Glass, mirrors and careful lighting give this home a contemporary feel. The owners love neutral colours, but decided to stay away from the usual beiges, and instead opted for greys with splashes of colour.

The downstairs flows from one open-plan living area to the next. The kitchen is white with clean lines, but surprisingly warm thanks to the inclusion of natural wood, softening the overall look.

The upstairs area boasts two



Glass, mirrors and careful lighting give this home a contemporary feel

CEDARA KITCHENS 021 555 0684



RIGHT: A specialist in the industry, Cedara Kitchens brings 30 years of cabinetry expertise to help clients create the kitchen of their dreams. The company is involved in the design, manufacture and installation of quality kitchen, bedroom and bathroom cupboards, and also specialises in wall and entertainment units.



INNERSPACE INTERIOR DESIGN 082 828 0113



curved feature walls with metallic wallpaper, leading onto the bedrooms, which further soften the angles and structure of the home.

For a house as modern as this, it has still achieved the warmth the family was looking for in creating their home. It's a place of perfect balance, aesthetic value that is made more real by signs of a family living in, and loving, their home. 🏡

CONTACT:

CEDARA KITCHENS – kitchens

021 555 0684, www.cedarakitchens.co.za

CERAMICA – flooring, tiles and sanitaryware

021 683 7140, info@ceramica.co.za, www.ceramica.co.za

TOP: Innerspace Interior Design specialises in designing interiors that enhance the client's lifestyle and add value to their home. For this contemporary family home, the company supplied detailed working drawings for all elements such as lighting, ceilings and bulkheads, feature walls, joinery designs and furniture layouts. It also undertook project coordination and the selection of finishes.

INNERSPACE INTERIOR DESIGN – interior design

082 828 0113, lisa@inner-space.co

WISE BUILDERS – building and project management

021 671 8145, info@wisebuilders.co.za,

www.wisebuilders.co.za



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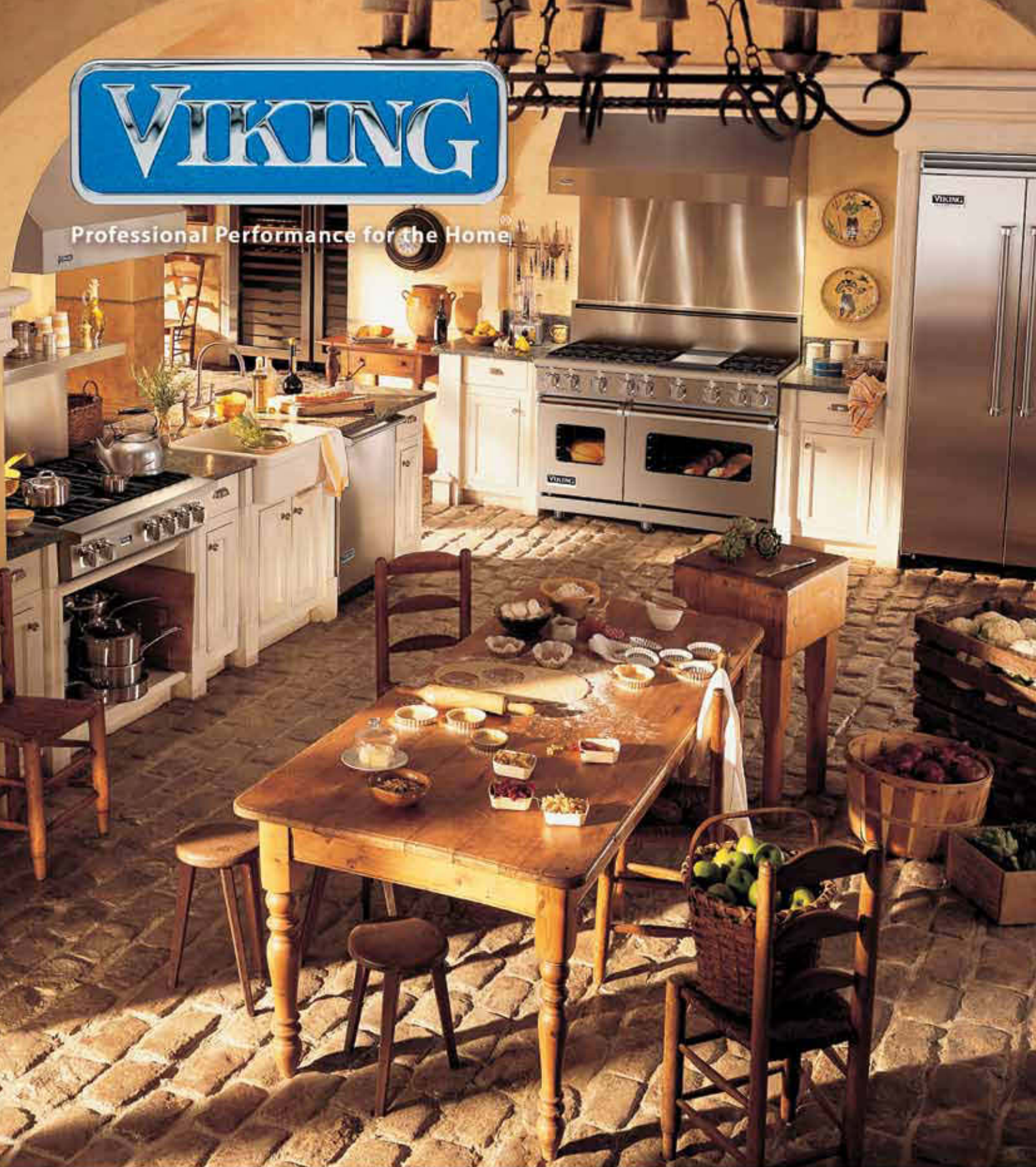
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HEART OF THE COUNTRY

BY TRISHA HARINATH
PROJECT CONSULTANT MONIQUE RANKINE
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY IRMA BOSCH



SPRUNT ARCHITECTS SA 011 886 6934

This modern farmhouse is situated in one of the most idyllic and serene locations in South Africa. Clarens Mountain Estate is where you can find this beautiful show house – an estate that does not compromise on space and where Mount Horeb provides the perfect backdrop for those looking for a prime address. Sprunt Architects SA was responsible for the design of this home, which, among other highlights, makes use of local Clarens stone for the plinths, walls and chimneys.

KINGKLIP MANUFACTURING AND TRADING 012 666 8440

In order to create a feeling of inside-outside living, and offer an unobstructed view of the natural landscape, aluminium windows and doors were supplied and installed by Kingklip Manufacturing. Each window and door was custom-made for a superior end result, finished with high-quality safety glass, and glazed by the company.

CLARENS MOUNTAIN ESTATE 083 393 3351

Clarens has become popular among young trendsetters and retirees alike, who are drawn to its idyllic charm and family-friendly environment. Clarens Mountain Estate, developed by Zeranza, gives you the opportunity to purchase your piece of paradise at an affordable price – now you, too, can have your very own winter holiday home or a family home in the countryside.

If you consider a four hour's drive out of Johannesburg country living, you should think again. Although it may take you to places that are quiet and serene, if you want real country living at its finest, you should consider Clarens.

Roughly 300km from Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Durban, this village of sorts is nothing short of idyllic – and what better way to take advantage of nature's finest than to buy your very own piece of paradise just two minutes away from the centre of Clarens?

Developed by Zeranza, a specialist property developer for the past 20 years, Clarens Mountain Estate is situated on 320-hectares of prime and pristine property, and gives you not only a sought-after address, but loads of activities for the whole family as well – all set within an upmarket, 24-hour manned security estate. And from wining and dining at the various restaurants, to browsing the many art galleries for which Clarens is renowned, in addition to golf, white-river rafting, horseriding and snow-skiing in nearby Lesotho, there is



indeed something for everyone in the area. But, in fact, just living on the estate is more than one can ask for.

This beautiful, modern farmhouse-style home was designed by Sprunt Architects SA and encapsulates what living on the estate is all about.

"The beauty of the design is that you have the choice to spend time together with family and friends in the living area, while whipping up some culinary delights, as well as being outside on the patio, reading and enjoying the views and connecting with nature," explains a representative from the estate.

Using natural materials native to the area, the home fits in perfectly with its surroundings and is the ultimate example of how living within nature can be done in style.

Furnishings and fittings were sought for their superior

quality and on-trend characteristics, making this home a trendsetter's dream. 🏡

CONTACT:

CLARENS MOUNTAIN ESTATE – residential estate
083 393 3351, sales@clarensmountainestate.co.za,
www.clarensmountainestate.co.za

KATIE ALLEN DECOR – interior design and decor
083 991 8429, www.katieallendecor.co.za

KINGKLIP MANUFACTURING AND TRADING – aluminium windows and doors
012 666 8440, 082 892 5517, ckaber@mwweb.co.za

KITCOR KITCHENS – kitchens and cabinetry
082 293 0130, natalie@kitckorkitchens.co.za

SPRUNT ARCHITECTS SA – architecture
011 886 6934, gbauskin@sprunt.co.za, www.sprunt.co.za

RIGHT: This unique and personalised kitchen was created by Kitcor Kitchens. The company worked closely with the client to incorporate a blend of mahogany veneer and white satin duco, giving this kitchen a warm and homely feel. Kitcor Kitchens manufactures and installs affordable, custom-built kitchens, vanities and built-in cupboards.

Furnishings and fittings were sought for their superior quality and on-trend characteristics, making this home a trendsetter's dream.



KITCOR KITCHENS 082 293 0130





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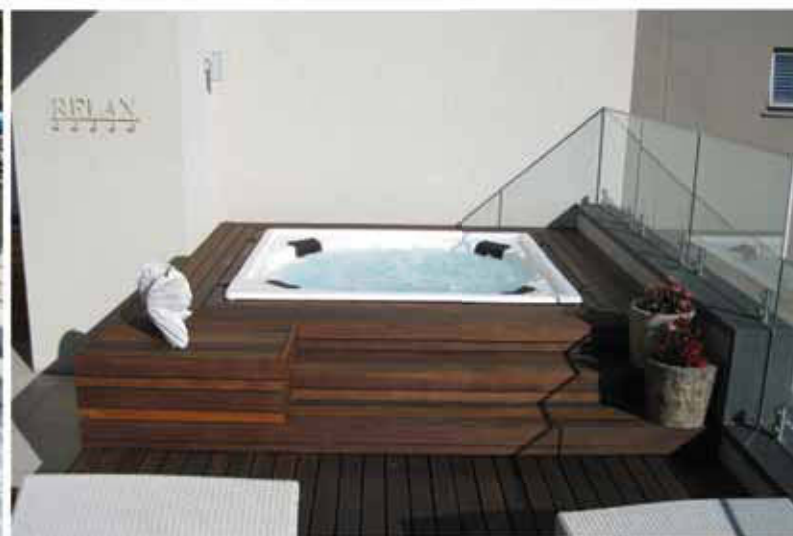
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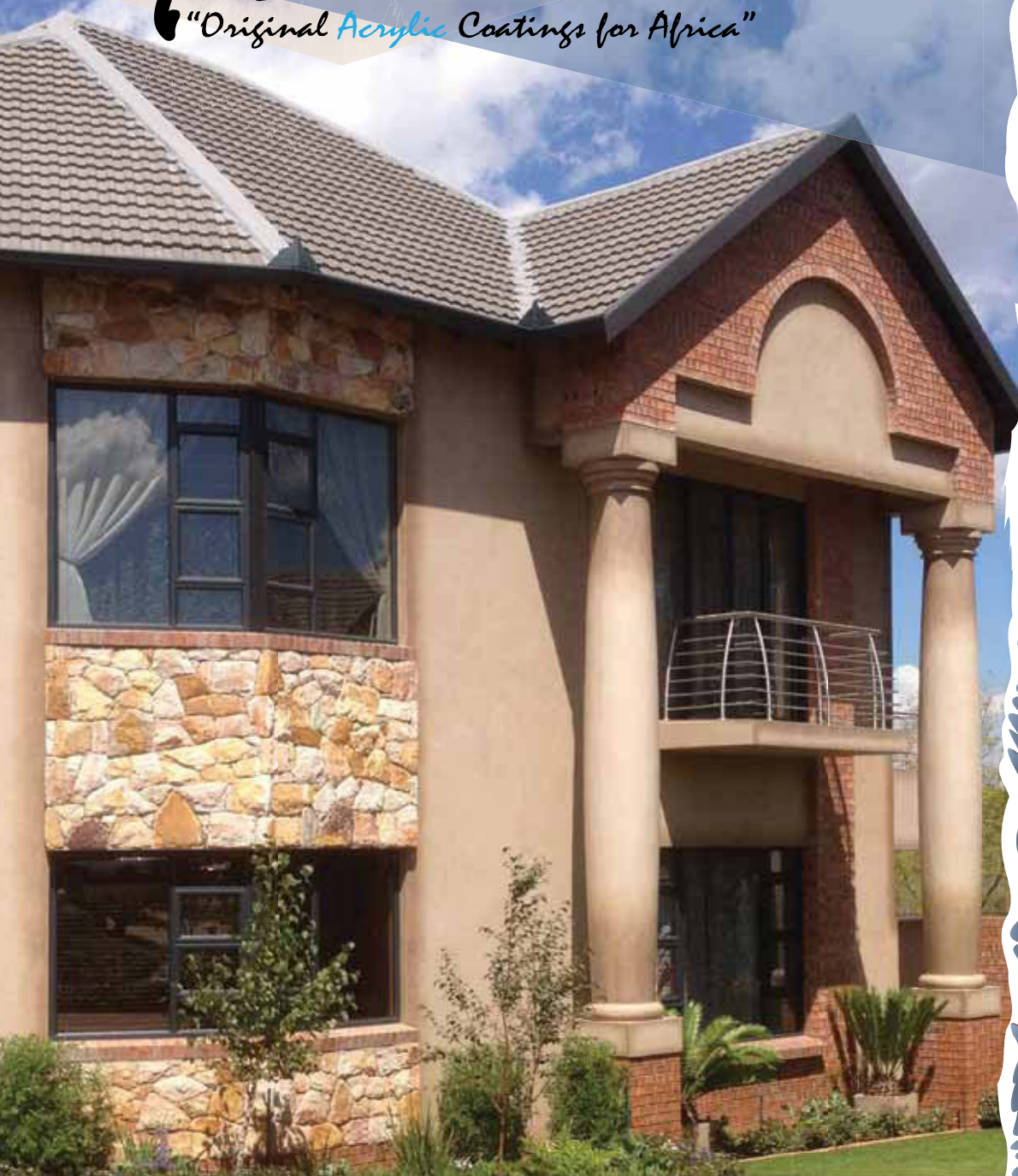
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MODERN FAMILY

BY ESTHER MOLOI
PROJECT CONSULTANT CANDICE JIN
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN BRAD PINKHARD

This recently renovated home in Johannesburg's northern suburbs took on a completely new form once the revamp was complete. With nothing but the cabinetry in existence, the interior designers were handed a blank canvas, which they had to transform into a masterpiece fit for a young family of four.

The owners were looking for a home with a modern, classic feel. This was achieved through the careful

selection of wallpapers, flooring and specialist lighting. With the structure boasting a double-volume ceiling, the entrance features an elaborate chandelier that sets the ambience for the home.

When it came to colour and finishes for the interiors, the approach was a neutral palette, with a pop of colour here and there. A combination of walnut and duco was used for most of the cabinetry; all of the furniture was



WANDA-MICHELLE INTERIOR DESIGN & DECOR 0861 964 181



The interior designers were handed a blank canvas, which they had to transform into a masterpiece fit for a young family

LEFT: The interior designers were tasked with decorating and furnishing this home from scratch. They put together the colour scheme – a neutral palette with pops of colour – and ensured that it translated through the flooring, furniture and wall coverings. All of the furniture was custom-made and designed.

custom-designed and custom-made. A number of art pieces grace the house – some collector's pieces and others just items that appeal to the home owners.

BOTTOM: Bed King Sleep Solutions provided tailor-made sleep solutions for this home. The home owners requested high-quality mattresses with customised base fabrics. With that brief, the company supplied the Comfort Solutions Back Smart, Comfort Solutions Ambience and Comfort Solutions Tranquillity mattress sets for the different rooms in the house. Fabrics for the base were supplied by the interior decorators, and Bed King ensured that the bases were wrapped using superior workmanship. Comfort Solutions is an exclusive range of beds supplied by Bed King.

With a little boy and a little girl in the family, it was important to give them rooms that not only fit in with the modern aesthetic, but also allow them to play and enjoy their space. Custom-made beds double up as a play area where the children can crawl, slide and climb, just as they would on a jungle gym. And if the kids are happy, the parents are happy too. 🏡

CONTACT:

BED KING SLEEP SOLUTIONS – beds

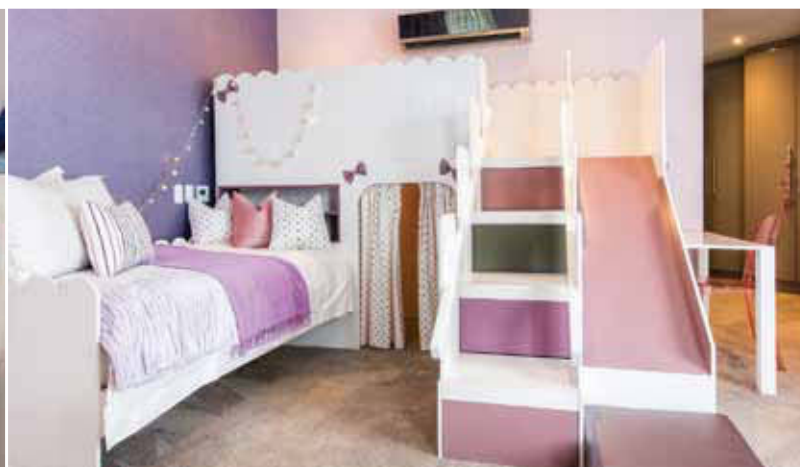
086 025 3545, andries@bedking.co.za, www.bedking.co.za

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A WORK OF ART

BY JANINE JORGENSEN
PROJECT CONSULTANT MONIQUE RANKINE
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CHANTEL SPENCE
PHOTOGRAPHY KARL ROGERS





SAN MARCO TILE CENTRE 011 918 3800



SAN MARCO TILE CENTRE 011 680 8013



FRANCOIS MARAIS ARCHITECTS 011 615 9105

ABOVE LEFT: Natural/1.0 porcelain stoneware tiles, from San Marco Tile Centre, have been used both inside and outside the home. Available in three colours, the tiles are non-slip and stain resistant, which makes them ideal for high-traffic areas in the home, such as the entrance hall and living spaces.

LEFT: Inspired by the natural texture of Italian Piasentina stone, Natural/1.0 porcelain stoneware tiles, from San Marco Tile Centre, have been used on both the floors and the walls, in a dark tone to create a soothing atmosphere in this bathroom, which also has a tranquil view of the outdoors.

When Francois Marais Architects began designing this house, they had the task of combining the tastes of the owners – an engineer, who values straight lines and order, and an artist, who wanted to play with contrasts – to create a modern family home.

Their solution is “a structural canvas painted with light”, reflecting the personalities of the owners and maximising the site, on the waterfront of a golf estate on the East Rand.

To apply this medium of light, large glass windows and facades have been used, which not only create a sense of space and accentuate the strong structural features of the house, but also integrate the outdoors with the interior, by providing uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape.

One of the best places for appreciating this vista is the outside entertainment space, accessed through the open-plan



ABOVE: Although Francois Marais Architects has designed a number of houses in this estate, each client inspires a different design. For this property, the owners desired a modern family home with open-plan living areas and ample space for entertaining. The architects maximised the position of the house, incorporating views of the dam and sunset in the west, yet ensuring it benefits from northern sunlight. The result is a contemporary residence that plays with light and makes use of different finishes.

It's a combination of skill
and creativity that's aesthetically
pleasing and brings joy
to its owners

living area, which is filled with artwork and personal items.

This space, like the rest of the house, has a neutral decor scheme with contemporary finishes and clean lines, which provides a modern feel, and doesn't detract from the design of the house or its setting.

To achieve the contrast desired by the owners, the designers "played" with texture, tone and space: pairing cladding and glossy tiles, mixing pale hues with dark accents, and adding bulkheads to the open-plan areas.

The end result is a home that could be described as a work of art. It's a combination of skill and creativity that's aesthetically pleasing and brings joy to its owners. 🏡

CONTACT:

FRANCOIS MARAIS ARCHITECTS – architecture and interior design
011 615 9105, admin@fmarchitects.co.za, www.fmarchitects.co.za

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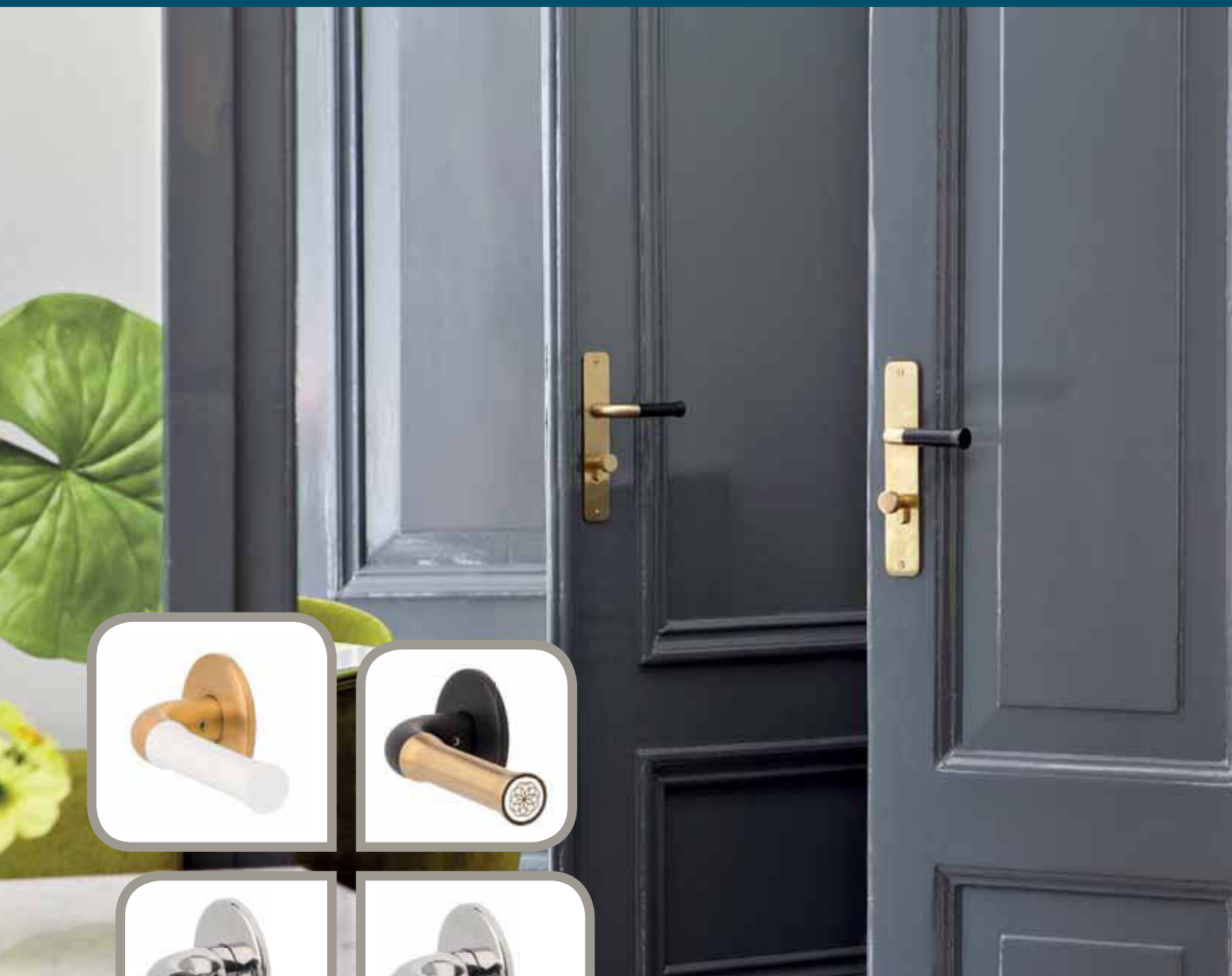
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ON THE BEACH

BY JESS BINNS
PROJECT CONSULTANT AVRIL ELIAS
PROPERTY COORDINATOR CATHERINE DE VINCENZO
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS ALLAN





BELGOTEX FLOORS 011 280 6900



ABOVE LEFT: Duraturf from Belgotex Floors provides you with the look and feel of grass minus the maintenance and upkeep of a real lawn. This UV-resistant artificial lawn is safe for children and pets, offering a functional solution without compromising on aesthetics. No watering necessary to keep the rich, green colour all year long.

BELOW: To complement the natural tones and textures of this home, Durban Wallpaper, run by Linda-Lee Smith, was appointed to supply and install the feature wallcoverings. Using a natural fibre called Grasscloth, in a subtle tone known as Driftwood, the walls have been instantly transformed, enhancing the look and feel of the interiors.

DURBAN WALLPAPER 082 780 1368



Hugging the shoreline on KwaZulu-Natal's Dolphin Coast, the signature white guesthouse gleams in the sunshine

This attractive, Caribbean-inspired house currently opens its doors to paying guests from far and wide. Once a large, family holiday home, Ballito House was taken in hand by youngest daughter Alice Colle, owner of local fabric brand Emline Designs. As it was a little out of date, and with certain areas being under-utilised, Alice drew on her talent to breathe new life and purpose into this well-loved home.

Hugging the shoreline on KwaZulu-Natal's Dolphin Coast, the signature white guesthouse gleams in the sunshine. The restful pool terrace offers downtime, safe in the knowledge that little ones are contained by the decorative boundary fence.

Finished in natural tones and textures, there are small, deliberate variations from room to room to guard against any interior monotony. "Beach chic" comes to mind as you discover that each room offers up a beautiful coastal view, with the Colonial style in evidence as the wood fans circulate a soft sea breeze.

Alice reveals that her favourite spot is the gazebo. "It's all white, with white plantation shutters. It has such a nice feel to it; you just want to go there and relax."

The ethos of Ballito House is simply "friendly, personal service and the enjoyment of good food, in a relaxed atmosphere where attention to detail reigns".



BELGOTEX FLOORS 011 280 6900



ABOVE LEFT: Imitation-wood floors have never been so realistic. One fine example is the Oakland vinyl plank floor range from Belgotex Floors. Extremely durable, the one-click system offers water resistance, provides warmth and is quiet underfoot. A wide and varied range can be found on the Belgotex website.

The oversized, comfy seating and the carefully chosen finishes certainly elevate Ballito House into a very desirable home away from home. 🏡

CONTACT:

BELGOTEX FLOORS – flooring
011 280 6900, info@belgotex.co.za,
www.belgotexfloors.co.za

DURBAN WALLPAPER – wallpaper
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face to face

A glimpse into the lives of decor and design professionals – BY SHEREEN LURIE



UDO FESENMEIER WSI DESIGNS

It's commonly believed that in order to succeed in business, one needs to keep work and family separate. But for Udo Fesenmeier, managing director of WSI Designs, this could not be further from the truth. In fact, family has been a key contributor to the ongoing success of the family-owned business that was started 46 years ago by his father, WJ Fesenmeier.

Udo began his career in furniture straight out of school. He first learnt the tools of his craft by becoming a master craftsman, and then got to grips with the ins and outs of every aspect of the business while on the job.

Udo says every family member who works for the company shares the same goals and values. "From experience I'd say that in this type of business, you have a vested interest in not only preserving your company's reputation, but the reputation of your family. This means that you need to have unconditional trust in each other and often work harder than other employees, often for no reward."

WSI Designs is one of the longest-running kitchen companies in Johannesburg, with an impressive 2 000m² manufacturing facility that builds kitchens, built-in wardrobes and bathroom vanities. The company also has an in-house design team, which uses state-of-the-art CAD software to produce designs of the highest quality.

Future goals for WSI Designs include "investing in more computerised equipment to streamline the business, and maintaining the highest levels of quality and client service," says Udo.

Family has been a key contributor to the ongoing success of the business.



I am inspired by...

each and every new day. There is always a different challenge with every project I take on. It is so rewarding to see the satisfaction of a happy client when I know that we have given them a product that we are proud to put our name on.

My design motto is... understand your clients' needs and expectations, and offer them the most spectacular design within their budget.

My favourite kitchen trend is... high-gloss finishes. I will, however, always enjoy classic kitchen designs.

The first thing I do when I get home in winter is... make a steamy cappuccino with my Siemens coffee machine.

My favourite quote is... "If you have to ask how much it costs, you can't afford it." – JP Morgan. 🏠



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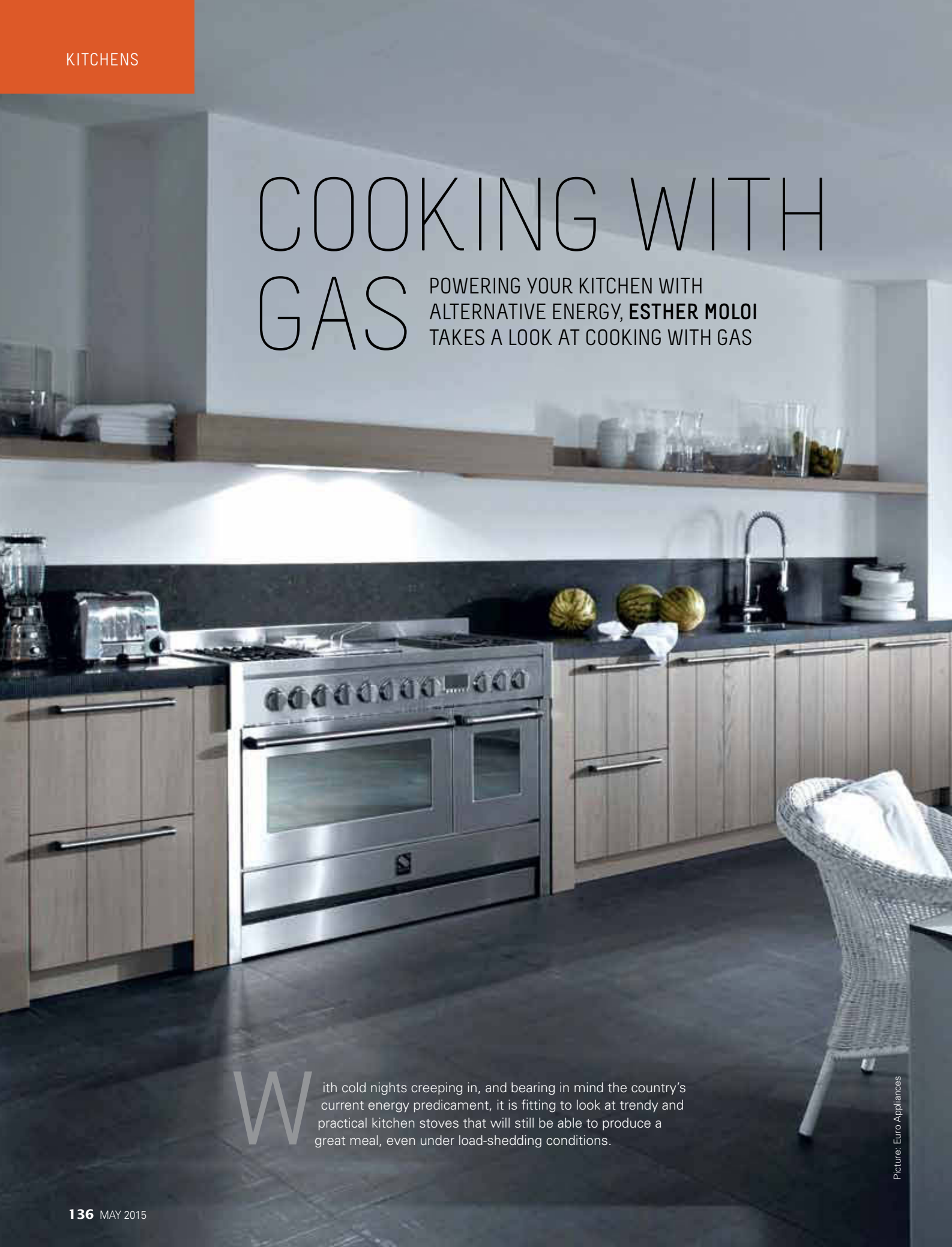
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COOKING WITH GAS

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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, **ESTHER MOLOI**
TAKES A LOOK AT COOKING WITH GAS



With cold nights creeping in, and bearing in mind the country's current energy predicament, it is fitting to look at trendy and practical kitchen stoves that will still be able to produce a great meal, even under load-shedding conditions.





Dual-fuel cookers, which comprise a gas cooking surface and an electric oven, are also a good option, as the distribution of heat in the gas oven is not as even as it is in an electric oven

Gas stoves have always been popular, but these days many home owners are considering them as a more energy-efficient alternative. Today, full-gas and dual-fuel cookers come in a variety of colours, and available in non-scratch, stainless-steel finishes.

"People want a lifestyle product that is beautiful, enduring, and suits their lifestyle and the environment in which we live," says Raig Russell of AGA Imports.

There are also some changes to the traditional cooker. "The function of the oven and the

configuration of the top cooker have changed quite a bit. The induction is now brought as a cooking surface, alongside the gas burner. There are some cookers which will begin to share the same colours as pots; even some refrigerators can now be the same colour as the cooker," notes Derk Jan van der Veen of Euro Appliances.

Most chefs recommend gas cookers. "Turning on a gas stove gets you an instant, constant flame that you can adjust visually. The flame produced by



"People want a lifestyle product that is beautiful, enduring, and suits their lifestyle and the environment in which we live"



THINKING OF GOING GAS?

- Approach your local accredited gas expert for professional advice and assistance.
- Use only a registered gas installer and always have your gas appliance serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Always ensure that the gas cooker you purchase has a safety device and a good-quality burner.
- In the kitchen, be careful with loose clothes or placing anything flammable close to the gas.
- The golden rule is: if you smell gas, switch off the gas supply immediately.



Always choose your cooking appliances according to your preferred way of cooking. Do not buy a cooker for the future buyer of your house.



a gas stove cooks food more quickly, evenly and efficiently," says Shanitha Moodley of Tecnogas.

Energy costs are much lower when you are using a gas stove. Although these stoves are generally more expensive, and installing them comes with an added cost, in the long run they are more economical.

Dual-fuel cookers, which comprise a gas cooking surface and an electric oven, are also a good option, as the distribution of heat in the gas oven is not as even as is it in an electric oven.

When it comes to cookware that will work well with a gas stove, consider good aluminium, copper or cast-iron, as they are good conductors of heat. "Always choose your cooking appliances according to your preferred way of cooking. Do not buy a cooker for the future buyer of your house," adds Derk. An informed decision will guide you in purchasing the right stove to suit your needs and lifestyle, so visit showrooms to see the products and ask questions. 🏠

With thanks to AGA South Africa, Breville, Culinary Equipment Company, Euro Appliances and Tecnogas (Elite Appliances)



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thehotspot

Must-haves for the kitchen – BY ESTHER MOLOI



The Trattoria range of tableware will give your home the look of a traditional Italian inn, perfect for adding a natural contemporary edge to your kitchen. Italianlifestyle.co.za



Enjoy a cup of hot tea brewed in a traditional cast-iron teapot from Woolworths. Woolworths.co.za



This cooker with five gas brass burners supports cast-iron pans and has a gas oven with a grill. It comes in a stainless-steel finish that is scratch resistant. Tecnogas.it



Make a great beef stew using a slow cooker with a wrap-around element, which ensures even heating throughout the cooking process. Home.co.za



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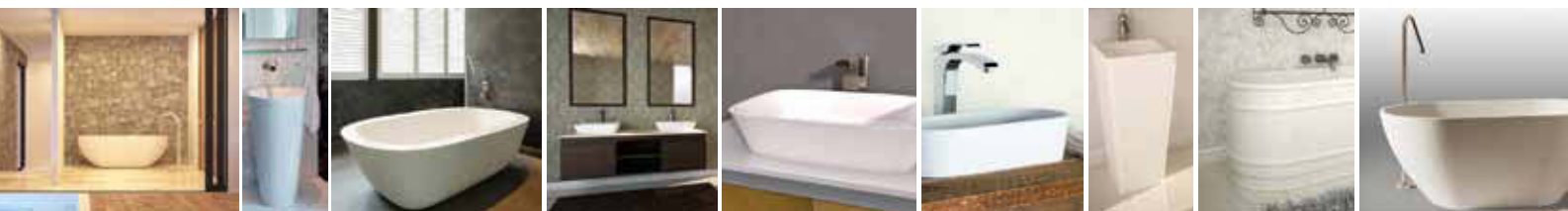
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BATHED IN LUXURY

JANINE JORGENSEN HELPS YOU TO MAKE
THE BATHROOM A PLACE OF INDULGENCE

With the arrival of winter, the focus tends to be on making living areas cosy and luxurious, to enjoy spending time indoors. But the bathroom is also a perfect space in which to relax and pamper yourself when the cold weather hits.

Transforming your bathroom into a sanctuary requires selecting products and features that enhance tranquillity and create a sense of indulgence.

"A spa bath is always a great way to create a lavish feel...these baths provide optimal relaxation and are invigorating for the user"

BATH TIME

"A big bath will add to the spa feel of the bathroom, as it offers ample space in which you can lie back and relax," advises Craig Taylor of Bathroom Butler. But it's not just the size of the bath that's important for a blissful experience. New bath models are conscious of ergonomics, so the body is comfortable when bathing. Many are now designed with angles to rest the back and an integrated headrest.

Another consideration for lengthy soaks is the material from which the bath is made. The latest baths are manufactured from products such as enamelled steel or limestone, which maintain a constant water temperature.

"A spa bath is always a great way to create a lavish feel," says Monika Krolewicz of Ferreiras. These baths "provide optimal relaxation and are invigorating for the user," adds Charlene Slater and Tabetha Le Roux of Sterlings, with hydrotherapy options such as jets and whirlpool settings.

Glossy finishes and gold or copper fixtures will add to the luxury in the space.



New designs conceal bulky hardware and pipes, and walk-in showers can be easily combined with glass or flexible shower enclosures



POWER OF THE SHOWER

From rain showerheads to massaging shower sprays, there's a range of choices when it comes to creating a pamper zone in the shower. The latest trend is the horizontal shower, so users can lie down while showering.

Digital controls allow for each person at home to programme their preferred settings, such as temperature and spray, so the perfect shower is guaranteed.

Just as the overall look is important for the bath, so too is an aesthetically pleasing shower for a luxurious atmosphere. New designs conceal bulky hardware and pipes, and walk-in showers can be easily combined with glass or flexible shower enclosures, which fold against the wall when not in use. "Thus, the bathroom opens up into a spacious room right after the shower experience," adds Julia Kern from Duravit.

Picture: Grohe

INDULGENT ESSENTIALS



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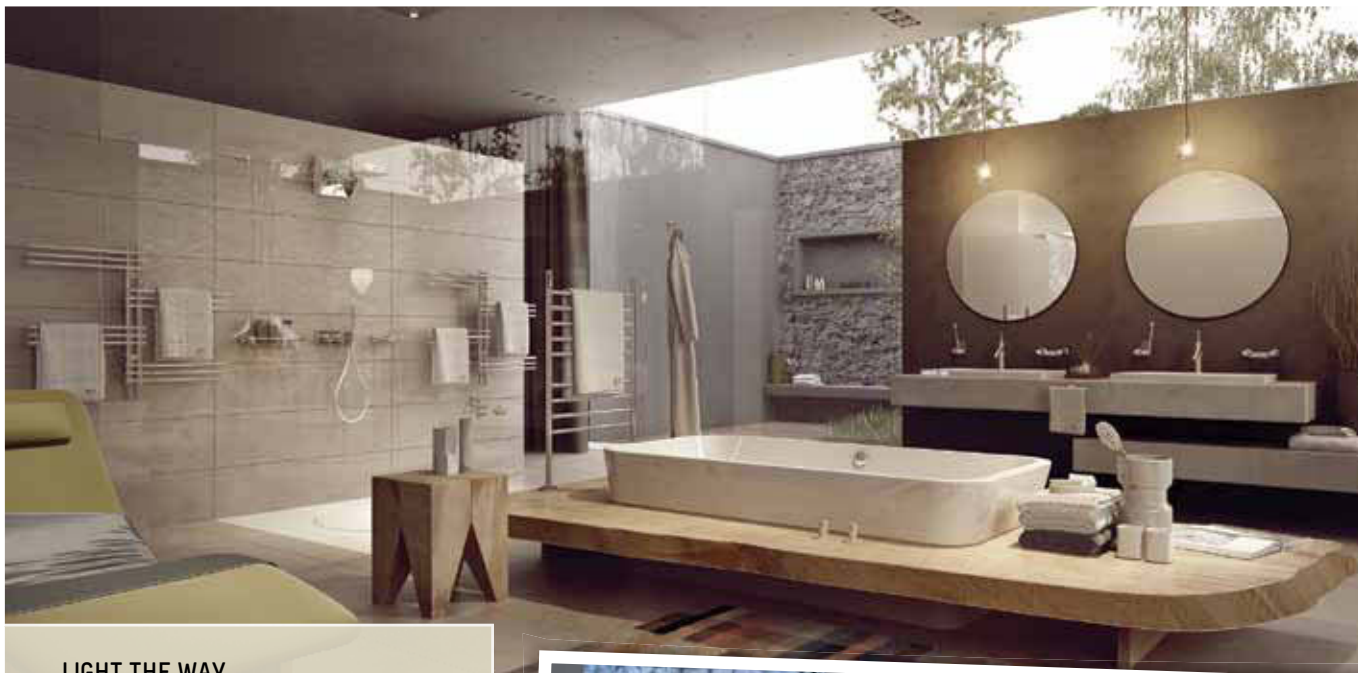
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LIGHT THE WAY

The wrong lighting in the bathroom can ruin the effect of a calming, indulgent space. The easiest way to control the amount of light in the room is to install dimmer switches; in this way, the room can still be purely functional when needed.

Other fixtures to consider for a pleasurable ambience are chandeliers, sconces or recessed downlights. And while candles have become a must-have in our power-strained environment, they do also provide a relaxing glow, and are even better when they are scented.



Pictures: Bathroom Butler, Duravit



“A big bath will add to the spa feel of the bathroom”

TOP TIPS

GROHE



GROHE SHARES SOME ADVICE ON HOW TO CREATE AN INDULGENT BATHROOM:

Spoil yourself this winter, and look for a shower head with a variety of spray patterns. This allows for perfectly personalised shower sessions, which can be anything from extremely relaxing to invigorating.

Improve your bathroom experience with digital showers that have coloured mood lighting and atmospheric sounds.

Treat yourself to the feeling of a warm, tropical rain on your skin from shower modes that offer maximum pleasure and indulgence while wrapping your entire body in fine steam.

Create a bespoke bathing experience with the GROHE SPA F-digital Deluxe range, which will also turn your bathroom into a trendy space.

ALL THE EXTRAS

“We all like a nice warm, dry towel when getting out of the bath or shower,” says Mark Bennett of Jeeves. “Locally manufactured heated towel rails are IPX5-rated, which allows for safe installation on any wall in the bathroom, including the area above the bath.”

Underfloor heating will maintain warmth, especially in winter, and materials such as marble are luxurious underfoot, while wood-effect and stone tiles have a soothing feel.

Surround yourself with sounds that will aid your relaxation, by installing speakers in the room or selecting a bath or shower with built-in audio options. 🏠



With thanks to Bathroom Butler, Duravit, Ferreiras, Grohe, Hansgrohe, Jeeves, Kaldewei, Sterlings

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Must-haves for the bathroom – BY JANINE JORGENSEN

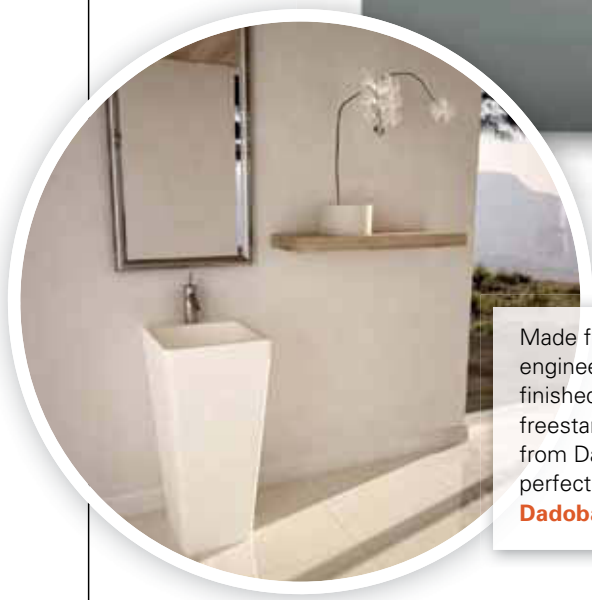
From Jeeves comes this Tangent M heated towel rail with a practical shelf, and in durable stainless steel. Jeeves.co.za



Add a touch of nature to your bathroom with a Natural Stone bath mat from Union Tiles. Uniontiles.co.za

The Agape Exline bath from Lavo Bathroom Concepts features open compartments for storing objects, to keep the surrounds clutter-free.

Lavo.co.za



Made from unique engineered stone and finished by hand, this freestanding Edith basin from Dado Baths is perfect for a classic style.

Dadobaths.co.za



Axor Citterio E fixtures by Hansgrohe are available in a red-gold finish for modern elegance.

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This prize does not include installation and electrical connections, and needs to be collected from one of The Kitchen Studio showrooms in either Cape Town, Midrand or Durban.

For more information on The Kitchen Studio, visit www.kitchenstudio.com.



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HEAVENLY SLEEP

ESTHER MOLOI LOOKS AT HOW
TO ACHIEVE EXACTLY THIS

Sleep is vital for a healthy mind and body, and often we don't take into consideration the importance of a good bed. According to Gary Smith of Fit For Bed, a mattress should be perceived

as a health product, and not just something you sleep on.

"A mattress has a huge impact on our quality of life, as well as our mental and physical health, so we should be looking for



Picture: Linen House



Bespoke bedroom furniture such as headboards, bedside tables and scatter cushions add an air of luxury to your bedroom

the right mattress to purchase as opposed to the cheapest option. The right mattress should give you a minimum of seven hours of comfortable, uninterrupted sleep," says Gary.

Eco-friendly and green mattresses are on the increase, indicating that the choice of the right mattress goes beyond functionality, to encompass what is also good for the environment. "Several niche brands have switched to organic and green alternatives that deliver comfort, being cognisant of the environmental concerns that consumers have," adds Mashuda Casmod of Hästens South Africa.

When it comes to mattress technology, there is great innovation in the form of a combination of materials such as memory foam, coil, gel and latex, all in one sleep system, which provides top-notch comfort. "These mattresses transfer minimal motion, so they are perfect for people who sleep next to a partner who moves frequently during the night," advises Dustin Scholtz of Dial a Bed.

A good bed is incomplete without great linen. Caron Koonin of The Wish Collection believes layers create luxury. "A bed should be multidimensional, appealing to all senses. Egyptian cotton for the bed linen, paired with cotton and silk throws and cashmere blankets, will do the trick. For the ultimate in luxury, add a crushed mink blanket," she suggests.



A FEW CONSIDERATIONS

- The right bed is determined by the weight of the person using the bed. Consider a memory foam mattress if you weigh less than 90kg. Over 90kg, a latex mattress is recommended.
- A good mattress protector will preserve and protect your mattress.
- Not only do mattress toppers add more comfort, they are also a more hygienic option because they are easy to remove and wash. A feather and down mattress topper will make your bed the ultimate sleep destination.
- Egyptian cotton linen in a high thread count is the height of luxury. Add latex pillows, which are great for allergy sufferers because they prohibit dust mites.
- When choosing a blanket, think graphic or chunky texture. This will add depth and create contrast.



Picture: La Grange Interiors



Bespoke bedroom furniture such as headboards, bedside tables and scatter cushions add an air of luxury to your bedroom," says Andrea Sher of La Grange Interiors. To keep your bed warmer in winter, invest in a luxurious feather and down mattress topper, she adds.

"Goose-down duvets feel as if you are sleeping under a warm, puffy cloud. They are lightweight, fluffy and nature's best insulator," notes Rashmi Prag of Linen Boutique.

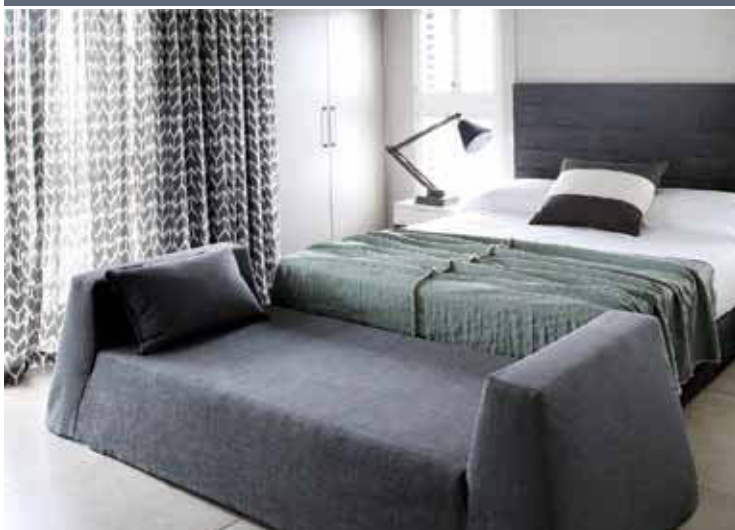
Velvet or cashmere robes with slippers will also help to keep the cold at bay, and a fireplace in the bedroom won't hurt. Add a few scented candles for a calm and romantic atmosphere. To maintain a peaceful environment, limit the amount of noise and the use of gadgets. And once your head hits the pillow, amazing sleep is guaranteed. 🛌

With thanks to Dial a Bed, Fit For Bed (Linen House), Hästens South Africa, La Grange Interiors, Linen Boutique, Tempur and The Wish Collection

For the ultimate in luxury, add a crushed mink blanket



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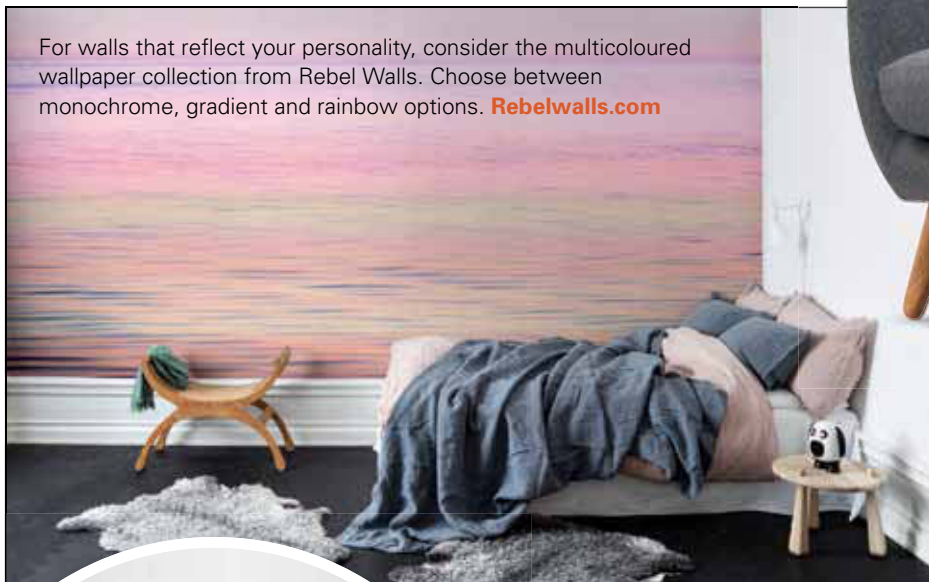
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trendspot

Keeping your home a trendy space – **BY ESTHER MOLOI**

For walls that reflect your personality, consider the multicoloured wallpaper collection from Rebel Walls. Choose between monochrome, gradient and rainbow options. **Rebelwalls.com**



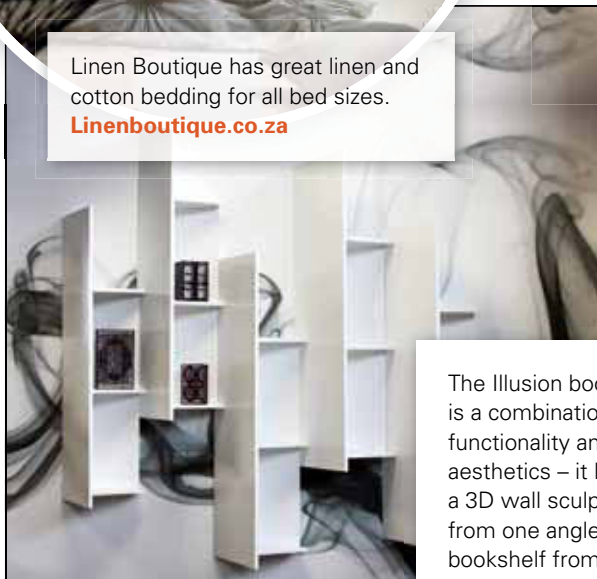
The Sofa Company recently launched in South Africa, offering classic Scandinavian-design couches. A simple, but striking addition to any room. **Sofacompany.co.za**



The Tempur Cloud Collection offers the right balance of comfort and support, with a comfort layer, a support layer and durable base, all in one great mattress. **Pharmaline.co.za**



Linen Boutique has great linen and cotton bedding for all bed sizes. **Linenboutique.co.za**



The Illusion bookshelf is a combination of functionality and aesthetics – it looks like a 3D wall sculpture from one angle and a bookshelf from another. **Simplidecor.co.za**



Warm up your bedroom with a Belo unit from Heatwave. This wood-burning unit can be ordered with a ceramic finish. **Heatwave.co.za**



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WINTER WINNERS

ESTHER MOLOI OFFERS SOME TIPS TO KEEP YOUR GARDEN BLOOMING IN WINTER



A top tip when maintaining your winter garden is to mulch your garden beds to protect plant roots

Winter gardens don't have to be dull and boring. It's a great time to plant in preparation for spring – tulips, roses and pansies. But consider planting aloes and other succulents to add some colour and attract wildlife to your garden during winter. In addition to their show, succulents are also low-maintenance.

During winter, be cautious when watering your plants; the best times are the warmest times of the day – between 9am and 3pm, as wet plants can freeze. For indoor potted plants, remember to be mindful of the heaters in the room; your plants may not be fond of all that artificial heat.

A top tip when maintaining your winter garden is to mulch your garden beds to protect plant roots from the icy weather. This also helps to reduce weeds in the garden. 🌱

With thanks to Grounded Landscaping and Yin Design



Pictures: Grounded Landscaping

THE GREEN SPOT

Pictures: Grounded Landscaping, Yin Design



GARDENING MUST-HAVE

When planting aloes to brighten up your garden, consider putting them in a simple and contemporary lightweight concrete (GRC) planter from Yin Design. The planter is ideal for both outdoors and indoors, and is available in six different colours. Yindesign.co.za

EVENT

Hutchinson Park in Amanzimtoti is the venue for the annual Lifestyle Expo and Highland Gathering. The expo will have House and Garden, Outdoor and Leisure, and Health and Beauty sections. The event takes place on 2 May. For more information, email events@bigevents365.co.za.

TOP GARDENING TIP

"In summer rainfall areas, winter may be an ideal time to tackle any construction projects, such as building an outdoor seating area, a vegetable garden or paving an area, as rains may disrupt these projects."

– **Glenice Ebedes, Grounded Landscaping**

TOP TIPS FOR WINTER GARDENING



EFEKTO OFFERS SOME PRACTICAL ADVICE ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PLANTS DURING WINTER:

- If you're in a cool climate, move your cold-sensitive container plants into a more sheltered position.
- Protect your plants against snails with a sprinkling of snail bait.
- Control conifer aphids with insecticide granules.
- Remember to give your deciduous fruit trees a clean-up spray with lime sulphur after their leaves have fallen.
- When planting new roses, prepare the soil with Wonder Vitaliser Plant & Veg 2:3:4 (15) +C (8)SR* and Wonder Bonemeal.

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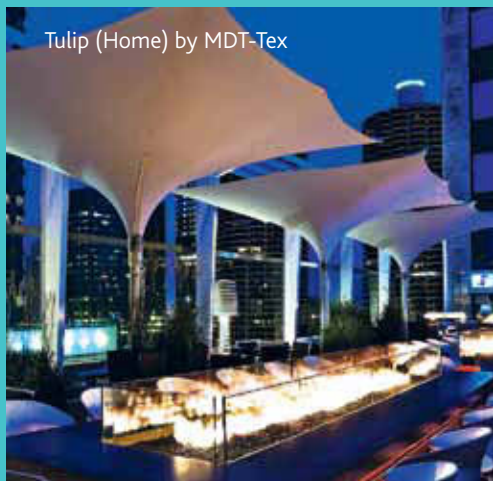
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OUTWARD BOUND

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING IS EASY IN WINTER TOO, SAYS **JANINE JORGENSEN**

South Africans are fortunate to enjoy a lifestyle that encourages outdoor living, and this doesn't have to change when the weather gets colder. While we might not be jumping in the swimming pool or standing around a braai, entertaining outdoors comfortably in winter is easy to achieve.



Pictures: Home Fires, Megamaster and Thinkstock

South Africans are fortunate to enjoy a lifestyle that encourages outdoor living, and this doesn't have to change when the weather gets colder



WARM-UP ACT

One of the first steps to creating a cosy atmosphere outside is making the area warm.

A permanent wood-burning fireplace in a larger outdoor entertainment space creates a luxurious ambience, while a sunken firepit, either wood or gas-burning, establishes that welcoming campfire experience, and can be easier to install and maintain.

For those not looking for a fixed structure, a movable boma is ideal for achieving that convivial atmosphere that a wood-burning fire enhances.

"If you have an area that is semi-covered, you can use a mobile biofuel fireplace that be can easily incorporated into your furniture setting/layout. They require no chimney or gas pipe, which makes them flexible to adapt to different applications," says Charles Scott of Beauty Fires.

Freestanding gas heaters are also a popular mobile heating solution, as they're available in a range of sizes and can warm up a large space quickly.

Francois van Huyssteen of Megamaster advises: "It's always important to read and understand the operating instructions/user manuals on any product, particularly gas-operated products. Be aware of prevailing winds, and smoke that might be emitted from the chimney or unit." He adds: "Take special care when children are around. Many outdoor units get extremely hot and at times have open flames."



SITTING COMFORTABLY

Ideally, an entertainment area should face north, to experience the winter sun during the day.

It should also offer protection, not just for you, but for outdoor accessories and furniture, too. Retractable awnings and/or blinds are an all-year answer, providing cover against any of the elements.

Ensure your furniture is suitable for all weather conditions and make the space inviting with throws and cushions.

The ultimate luxe accessory for an entertainment space in winter is a hot tub – even better if it's positioned to enjoy views of the clear winter night sky.

A wood-burning fireplace creates a luxurious ambience



WHAT'S COOKING?

Winter is the perfect opportunity to explore outdoor cooking ideas other than the braai.

Aside from drawing people sociably around the fire, a potjie makes a hearty meal for a cold winter's evening. "These days potjie pots are also available in enamel-coated versions with different colours," says Francois, for a modern look to a traditional local favourite.

Looking out of the country for food inspiration, the Spanish paella is easy to make in an enclosed area when entertaining a lot of people; while the trend for American-style barbecued smoked meat, seen on restaurant menus, is easy to recreate at home using an enclosed grill.

An increasingly popular choice for an outside entertainment area is the pizza oven. These are available in either gas or wood-burning models. "The functionality, ease of use and, most importantly, running costs of a pizza oven far exceed those of conventional cooking methods using electricity," says Cobus du Plessis of Calore.

Families find them appealing, as everyone can get involved in the cooking process, from rolling the dough to adding the toppings. But more than that, the oven is not just for making pizza. "The oven allows the chef the opportunity to bake different types of bread, lasagnes and other Mediterranean dishes, and experiment to their heart's content," adds Charl Hankey of Jetmaster. 🍕

With thanks to Beauty Fires, Calore, Home Fires, Jetmaster, Made in Spain, Megamaster, Mobelli Outdoor Furniture, ORA The Outdoor Boutique, Syam Distributors and Weber



Winter is the perfect opportunity
to explore outdoor cooking ideas





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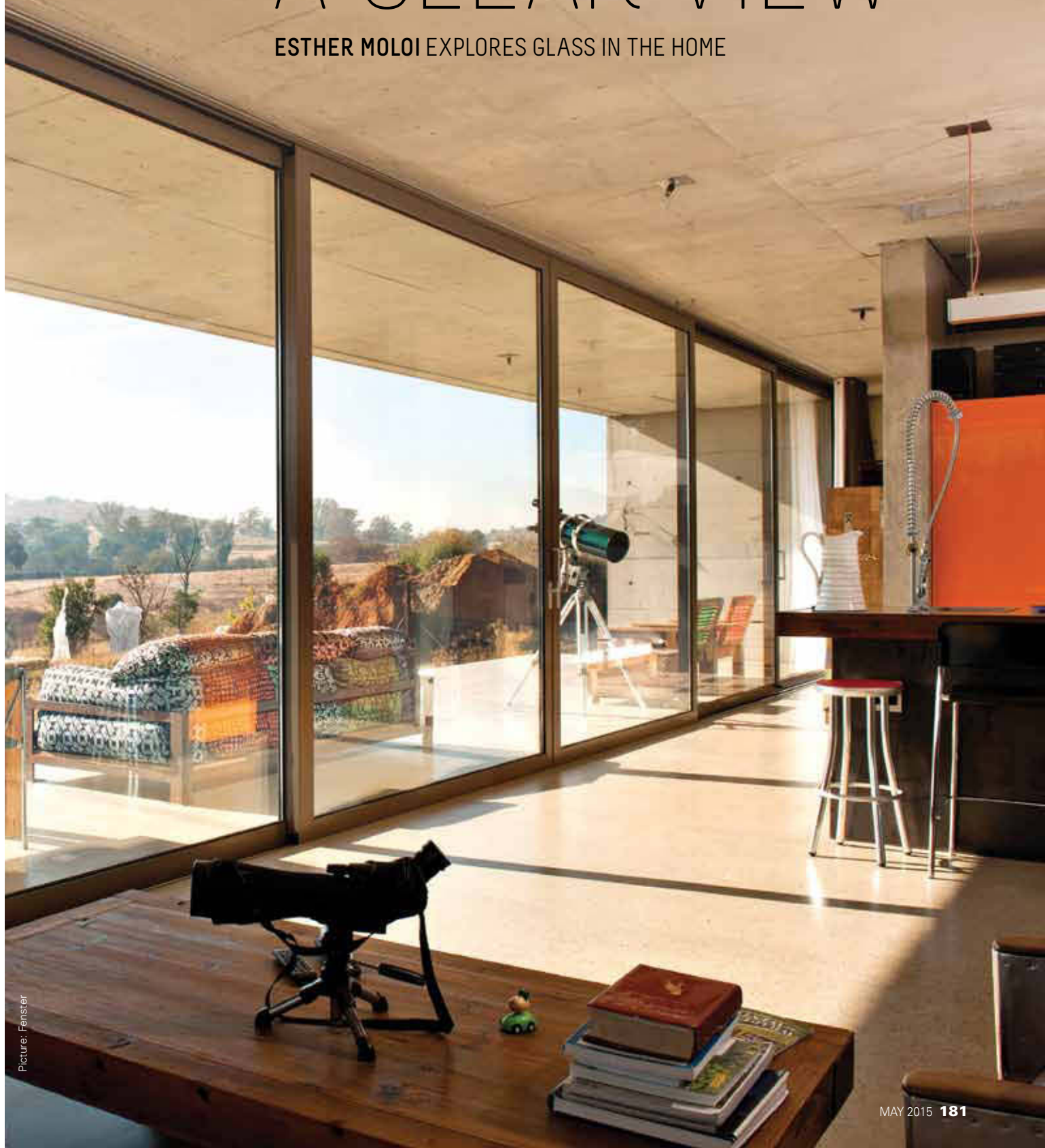
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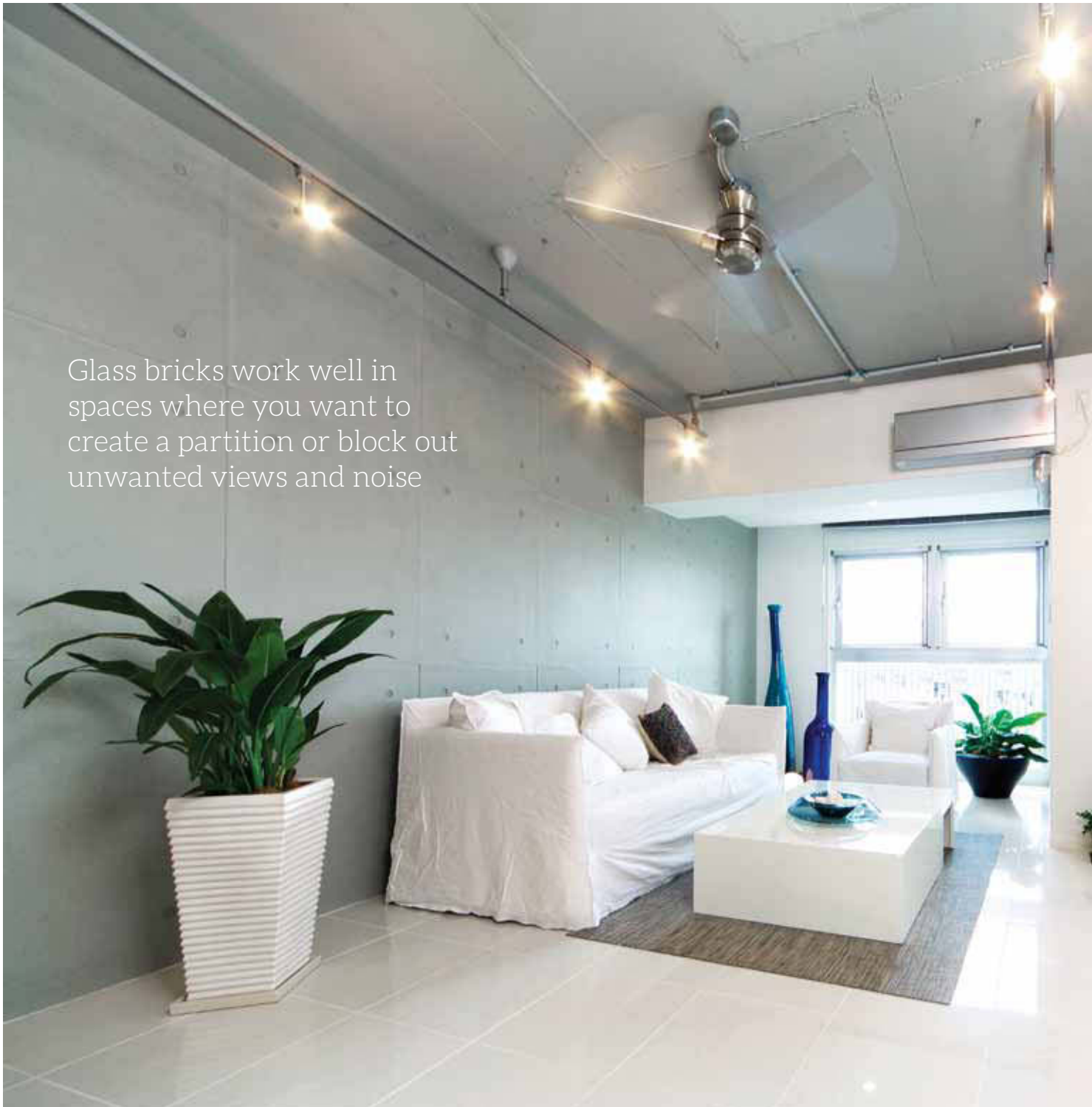


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A CLEAR VIEW

ESTHER MOLOI EXPLORES GLASS IN THE HOME



A modern living room with a white sofa, a large potted plant, and a glass brick wall. The room features a white sofa with several pillows, a large potted plant in a white planter, and a glass brick wall. The ceiling has exposed pipes and track lighting. A white coffee table is in front of the sofa, and a window is visible in the background.

Glass bricks work well in spaces where you want to create a partition or block out unwanted views and noise

Everybody loves the sunshine, and in a country blessed with a great deal of it throughout the year, it makes sense for your home to embrace natural light. Glass is a great way to let the sun shine in, while protecting your home from different weather conditions.

"Glass remains an architectural preference that adds elegance and aesthetic appeal to any home. It is versatile for internal and external use," notes

Petunia Mpoza of Aluglass Bautech.

Glass is often used as a design feature, and various decorative glass options are available. Fanus Boshoff, owner of Architectural Stained Glass, says: "Stained glass is a traditional architectural craft adding a unique touch and atmosphere to your home." It is a great way to give old-style flair to a contemporary home. "Stained glass refracts, bends and projects natural light into your living space, washing over your



floors and walls with ethereal beauty," he adds.

Glass has a good lifespan and ages well. Bevelled glass and clear textures have become very popular, and glass is fully recyclable.

Glass bricks have been in existence since the 1900s, and are still considered in the building process today. They can be used internally or externally, as they are very robust, offering a higher insulation factor than regular glass. "Glass bricks are fire, sound and impact resistant, and are far more resistant to damage than traditional glass walls. They are also an effective and impenetrable barrier against potential intruders," shares Petunia.

Glass bricks work well in spaces where you want to create a partition or block out unwanted views and noise, such as the bathroom.

Also in the bathroom, frameless showers consist of sliding or folding doors made of glass. A frameless shower paired with a skylight allows for ample natural light, which can transform the room into a tranquil space. Consider replacing the tiled areas with wall cladding in glass, for that extra wow factor.

Glass can be applied in interesting forms in the kitchen. Glass splashbacks and wall cladding are quite trendy, and add elegance to the area. "Glass



Glass remains an architectural preference that adds elegance and aesthetic appeal to any home

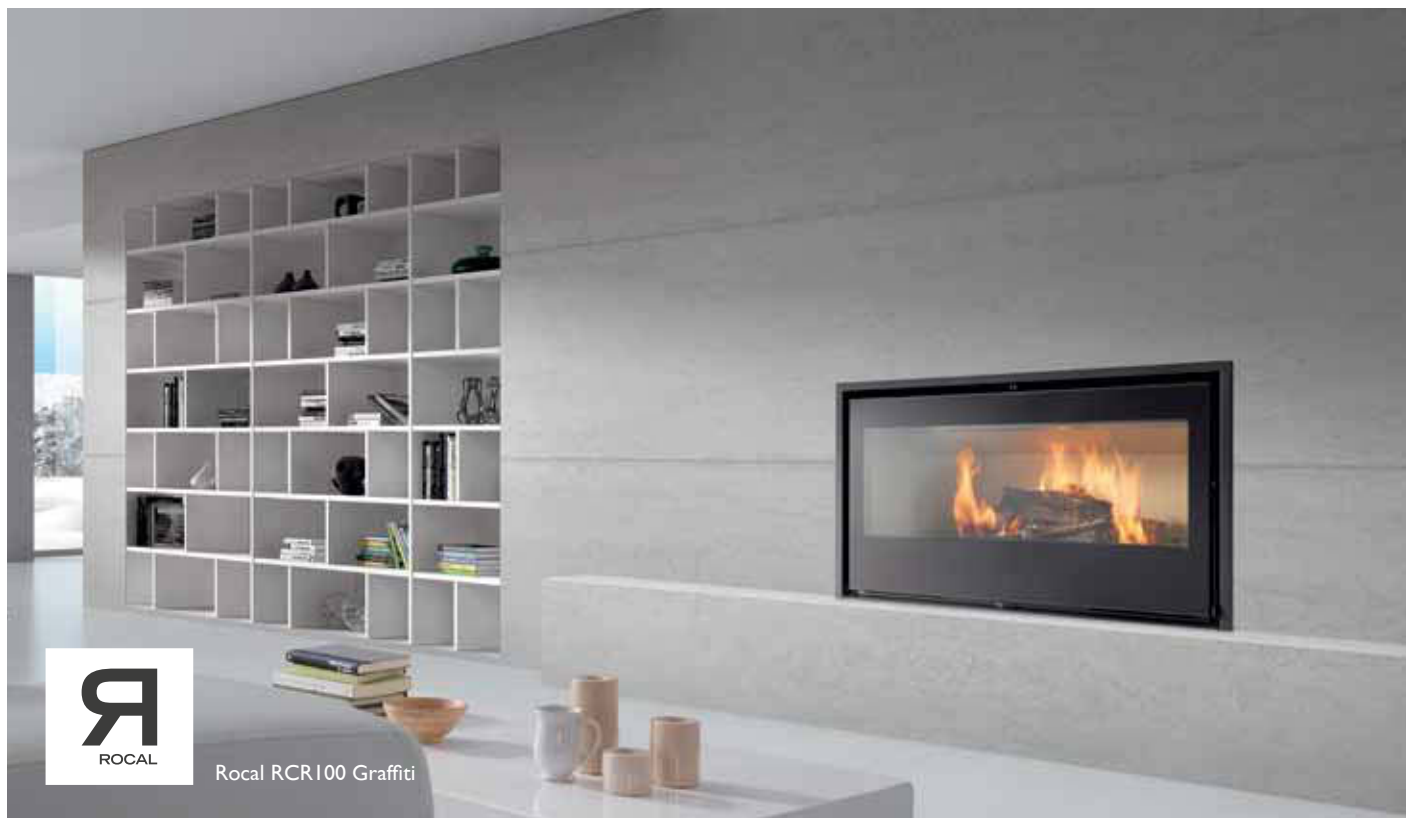
is timeless, so the use of coloured or digitally printed glass as a splashback in your kitchen is just fantastic," advises Justin Marsh, owner of Cohesion Interiors. Glass splashbacks offer a seamless look without the typical grout lines from normal tiling. "This is because we can waterjet-cut the glass to fit almost any opening," adds Justin.

Large internal frameless sliding glass panels are also becoming popular. "These consist of clear, tinted or even obscure toughened safety glass, ensuring privacy if required," explains Michiel Thoolen, director and owner of Radiant Glass Concepts. These panels can be used as room dividers between bedrooms and bathrooms, and work very well in open-plan set-ups.

There are a variety of eco-friendly options that also help you to save on energy costs. "Double-glazing is a good alternative, especially in skylights," adds Michiel.

Glass offers a fresh look and does wonders in making a room feel more spacious. It's a great way to add natural light, while preserving the environment. 🏡

With thanks to Aluglass Bautech, Architectural Stained Glass, Cohesion Interiors, Fenster and Radiant Glass Concepts



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THE HEAT IS ON

JANINE JORGENSEN LOOKS
AT WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN
WARMING YOUR HOME



Picture: Infiniti Fires/Lifestyle Fires



Summer may have its warm evenings and al fresco meals, but for winter, it's getting cosy beside a fireplace at home.

But fireplaces are about more than just heat and comfort; they are now a design feature, to look attractive all year round, and are available in a range of materials and for use with a selection of fuels.





WHAT TO CHOOSE

"Across South Africa, there is a boom in closed combustion wood stoves and flue-less gas fireplaces. It is, to a large extent, driven by the rapidly increasing price of electricity and the wish to have heat even if there is no electricity," says Malcolm Sims of Infiniti Fires/Lifestyle Fires.

"Closed combustion units are always a popular choice, as they have high heat outputs and almost unlimited options to suit customers' needs and tastes," adds Francois van Huyssteen of Megamaster. They are generally more efficient than traditional fireplaces in both fuel consumption and heating a large space, and there's no lingering smell, as there is with open fireplaces.

Benefits of a flue-less gas unit are that as it requires no chimney, it doesn't need extensive installation, and it's generally easy to operate. However, home owners do need to ensure that gas units are installed by a registered LPGSASA (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Safety Association of South Africa) installer.

"Balanced flue gas fireplaces are enclosed units which draw their air requirements directly to the outside by means of a special chimney system. They also feature a remote control for easy operation," says Jared Baker of Home Fires.

Freestanding fireplaces and built-in options with open flames are appealing for the ambience they create. "Built-in fireplaces create a natural focal zone in the room, which you can further enhance with various accessories, surrounds or mantelpieces," adds Jared.

Wall-mounted units save on floor-space requirements, and are a safe option for parents, as the system can be installed out of the reach of children.

"Closed combustion units are always a popular choice, as they have high heat outputs and almost unlimited options to suit customers' needs and tastes"



Pictures: Calore and Home Fires



FUEL FOR THOUGHT

The type of fireplace will dictate the type of the fuel needed, from wood to anthracite/coal, gas and bio-ethanol.

Some wood-burning fireplaces need a wider chimney for the smoke to escape, which, also lets more of the heat escape.

"Wood is plentiful in South Africa, relatively accessible to all and relatively affordable. It is also a sustainable fuel source, unlike fossil," says Julian Poppel of Island Fires.

Wood-burning "boiler fireplaces" have also been introduced to the market. "Whether it's for a hot bath, warm shower or underfloor heating, you can produce the hot water you need with a water-heating fireplace, as well as heating large open-plan spaces," says Andrew Balding of Morso (Premium Fires).

Another new introduction is pellet-burning fires, which comprise compressed biomass wood acquired from sustainable plantations regulated by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Gas units are easier to clean and provide instant heat, but the running costs can be higher than those of wood.

"Bio-ethanol is a good option where gas and wood may be problematic, such as in apartment buildings. It is also relatively low-cost to run, and clean-burning," adds Syd Kay-Clough of Syam Distributors.





Gas units are easier to clean and provide instant heat, but the running costs can be higher than those of wood

FEEL THE HEAT

As most modern homes are open-plan, how do owners retain the heat in a large space?

Charl Hankey of Jetmaster explains: "The secret to heating a large, open space is all about selecting the correct unit and ensuring that it is able to heat the total volumetric requirement."

The fireplace, however, is just one factor to consider in keeping an area warm. Consider how effective your home insulation is: is there adequate thermal insulation in your walls, roof and floors? Do the windows require glazing or have sufficient coverings, such as curtains, to retain heat?

"It is also crucial to ensure fresh air is supplied to the appliance from the outside environment, to provide enough combustion air and equalise pressure between the inside and outside environments," adds Cobus du Plessis of Calore.

Finally, Julian notes: "Any solid fuel-heating appliance will only function as well as the installation," so make sure you use a reputable expert. ■

With thanks to Beauty Fires, Calore, Home Fires, Infiniti Fires/Lifestyle Fires, Island Fires, Jetmaster, Megamaster, Morsø (Premier Fires) and Syam Distributors



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JANINE JORGENSEN
LOOKS AT THE TOP
LIGHTING TRENDS

Lighting is one of the most essential aspects of any room, and it's certainly not being overlooked by the design world. The current trends for lighting include well-crafted statement pieces, and fixtures that make use of new technology. We round up the top lighting trends this year.



PENDANTS

Not new to the design scene, the pendant light's enduring appeal is that it isn't limited to any particular style; it's available in a range of sizes, shapes and materials, and it's suited to both contemporary and classic schemes in almost every room.

"The clustering of different forms and shapes is a big hit at the moment, with colours ranging from neutral to metallic," says Hestelle Wagener of Illumina.

Other fresh takes on this style are the woven pendant, those made of wood and brightly painted fixtures.

"For more light reflection, the inside of the pendant can be painted a lighter colour to that of the outside," says Isabella Horn-Botha of Ambiente Luce.

The pendant light's enduring appeal is that it isn't limited to any particular style; it's available in a range of sizes, shapes and materials

Pictures: A + I Unlimited Design, Pure Light SA, Streamlight





LED

There's been much focus on using LED lighting in the home, but what is it? Light emitting diode (LED) bulbs produce light through the use of a semi-conductor, rather than the filament in traditional incandescent bulbs. LED lighting uses very little energy and is instantly bright when turned on, hence its popularity.

It's been used in kitchens, particularly as under-cabinet lighting, and bathrooms, such as in the shower, but lately it's also being combined with other materials, such as fabric, and in interesting designs, including as tape.

"As LED technology is improving, we are seeing more and more applications that incorporate LED lighting," notes Eli Kalmi of K Light Import.

CHANDELIERS

The chandelier is a classic statement piece that's lasted for centuries and continues to feature in the home, but in new, dramatic forms. "We are seeing a trend in organic shapes and textures in chandeliers," says Loren Einstein of Streamlight. The latest designs are evocative of art installations, such as waterfalls of glass and "sea creatures" made of leather and wood.

"A definite new way of doing chandeliers is with the 'un-chandelier' look: unconventional designs, uncommon shapes and unexpected materials," says Hestelle.

It's also been moved out of its traditional domain of the dining room, and can now be found throughout the home, from the kitchen to the bathroom. "You can install a chandelier in any room that has the ceiling height to accommodate it," says Loren.

"A lot of the traditional crystal chandeliers are now incorporating the decorative LED bulbs, which maintains the beauty of the chandelier without compromising on the design," adds Eli.



"We are seeing a trend in organic shapes and textures in chandeliers"



Copper or rose gold complement both traditional and modern interiors



METALS

The decor trend of metallics is here to stay, and one of the easiest ways to introduce it in the home is through lighting. Metallic fixtures don't have to be used only as ceiling features, but can be incorporated as floor lights, sconces and table lamps.

Copper or rose gold complement both traditional and modern interiors, and give an ambient, soft light. "Update any room with a rose gold desk lamp or a white metal pendant with a rose gold finish on the inside, which will ensure a warm, subtle glow," says Hestelle. 🏠

With thanks to A + I Unlimited Design, Ambiente Luce, Davey Lighting (100% Design), Illumina, K Light Import, Newport Lighting Concepts and Design, Pure Light SA, Streamlight and Weylandts



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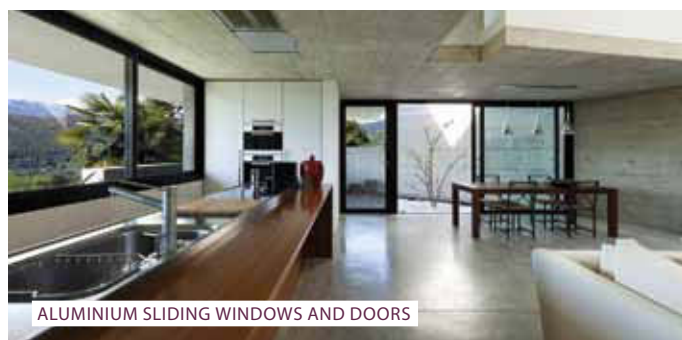
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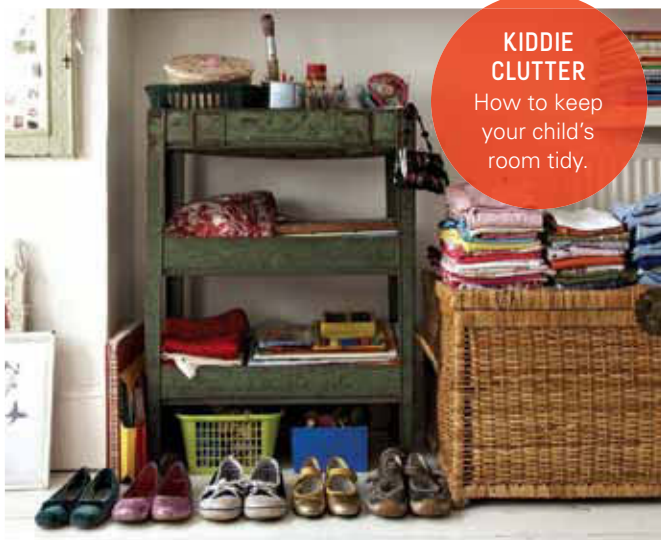


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TAX YOU VERY MUCH

THE 2015 BUDGET SPEECH IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD FOR SOUTH AFRICANS, SAYS **KERRY HAYES**

In the 2015 annual Budget Speech, presented by Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene, South Africans were served a number of benefits – and challenges – in terms of tax adjustments, fuel and electricity price hikes, and a dichotomous change to transfer duties on property purchases.

TAKE A (TAX) HIKE

Consumers have drawn the short end of the stick with regard to fuel and electricity price hikes.

Taxes on fuel are set to increase by 80,5 cents per litre in April – a hard-hitting marriage of a 30,5 cents per litre fuel levy increase and a 50 cents per litre increase in the Road Accident Fund levy.

As if Eskom isn't already deeply embedded in everyone's bad books, a "temporary" electricity levy increase from 2 cents per kWh to 5,5 cents per kWh will be implemented in April. Government states that this 3,5 cents hike will end as soon as the power shortage has been managed – however, experts predict that this could only be as early as 2023. In addition to this, a carbon tax looks likely to be implemented in 2016.

On the flipside, the energy-efficiency savings incentive has been doubled – good for the environment, and positive encouragement for home owners and businesses to convert to more environmentally friendly energy sources. Monthly savings and greater property attractiveness will be the spin-offs.

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

Hard to do, when you are earning more than R181 900 a year. This earner bracket will see its marginal personal income taxes rise by one percentage point, equating to around R21 extra per month. South Africans earning R500 000 per year will be paying an additional R271 per month, while those earning in excess of R1,5 million per year will be paying an additional R1 105 per month.

For those earning R73 650 and below – lucky you; you fall within the tax-free threshold. We must, however, applaud this tax relief for the lowest income earners, who are in the direct line of fire for ever-inflating consumer costs such as food and transport.

While having their place in the overall goal of addressing economic constraints and bridging the GDP gap, the above amendments to personal tax will most likely see a change in consumer spending patterns – a chink in the plan to fill the consolidated projected 3,9% deficit in the 2015/2016 GDP.

HOME SWEET HOME?

Some good news for first-time and middle-income home owners is that no transfer duties will be payable on property transactions below R750 000. The increased threshold from R600 000 in the previous fiscal gives more opportunity for South Africans to own their own homes.

There is also a decrease in transfer duties for homes in the R750 000 to R2,3 million price bracket. However, homes above R2,3 million will see an increase in transfer duties – R85 000 plus 11% of the property value of homes above R2,25 million.

Consumers have drawn the short end of the stick with regard to fuel and electricity price hikes

A R4 million home will make you liable for transfer duties of around R277 500. Another downer to the already-heavy cost burden of high-income earners.

We can only feel that this blow will decrease the attractiveness of homes in the higher-priced brackets.

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

Other measures are also being implemented; the 2015 Budget tax proposals aim to increase revenues as required, limit the erosion of the corporate tax base, increase incentives for small businesses, and promote a greener economy, while supporting the poor and managing our debt.

The framework outlined by the 2015 Budget is at least a step forward in attempting to "address our economic constraints, improve growth performance, create work opportunities and broaden economic participation" (Nhlanhla Nene, 2015 Budget Speech). A progressive tax structure is necessary, although it is a fine balancing act between economic upliftment and consumer depression.

Just don't try to drink your worries away – you will be faced with an increase of 15,5 cents on a quart of beer, 15 cents on a bottle of wine, and will pay R3,77 more on a bottle of whisky. 🍷

With thanks to Leapfrog Property Group, Pam Golding Properties, Biznews.com, Moneymarketing.co.za and Timeslive.co.za



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LEGENDARY DESIGN

A modern-day embodiment of sheer purity and elegance, the apparent simplicity of the Piaget Altiplano Chronograph expresses the timeless understatement of the Altiplano collection. For the first time, this emblematic line offers a hand-wound chronograph, and while this fine watchmaking classic is generally reserved for timepieces featuring traditional lines, the Manufacture Piaget has opted to house it in a case displaying a slender, understated and contemporary design. Piaget.com



COMFY STYLE

Bedroom Athletics' collection of gorgeous slippers offers a wide variety of designs for both men and woman who are after comfort, quality and, of course, amazing style. South Africa's introductory Women's AW15 collection features an assortment of cosy, luxurious fabrics and playful colours.

Bedroomathletics.co.za

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The strength of woods and the potency of sensual, leathery notes underscore the intentionally very masculine character of Nuit d'Issey, a spicy, woody, leathery fragrance. A classic of Issey Miyake men's fragrances, the bottle is dressed in black to celebrate the night. Crafted to blend shadow and light, the glass changes from a smoky gradation to a streaked black, an abstract monochrome etched into the material itself. **Isseymiyakeparfums.com**



FUTURE CLASSICS

Ted Baker has choreographed a luxurious womenswear clothing and accessories collection for AW15, effortlessly combining vintage-inspired floral prints (such as Opulent Bloom and Botanical Bloom) in a layered and lavish palette of pinks. His continued love affair with the 1950s has also created an ultra-feminine look to ensure all ladies become belles of the ball.

Tedbaker.com



HOLISTIC BEAUTY

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The term 'Off The Grid' refers to not being connected to the main or national electrical grid. This can be achieved by using a wide variety of electricity generation options and that is why Grand Designs Live will be showcasing a diverse range of solutions that are available to assist in this endeavour. From

solar panels to generators, gas suppliers to alternative energy suppliers, alternative heating and cooling options to wind power generation and solar water heating, Grand Designs Live will 'enlighten' you as to the best solution for your home to function in a self-sufficient manner.

Within Grand Interiors a two-roomed Tree House will be erected towering above our 300 exhibits. Sponsored by Belgotex and Duraturf, The Treehouse is filled with achievable ideas and solutions for redecorating your home. In collaboration with some of SA's top décor talents, we show you how to use spaces effectively and how to add glamour and beauty innovatively and affordably to make your home amazing from the inside.

Be inspired by the talks, activities, high-tech products and first-hand demonstrations, its expert guests, immersive environments and out-the-box exhibits – all aimed at being revelatory and reinvigorating... and be inspired by all things grand.



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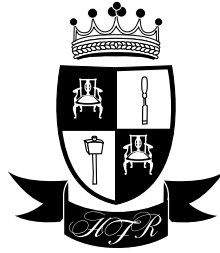


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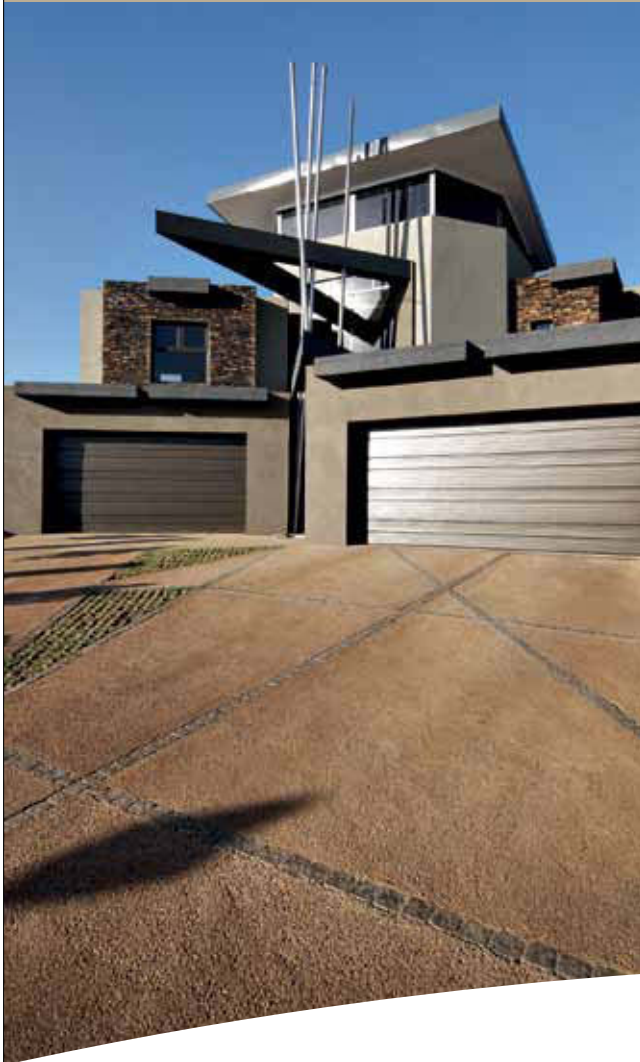
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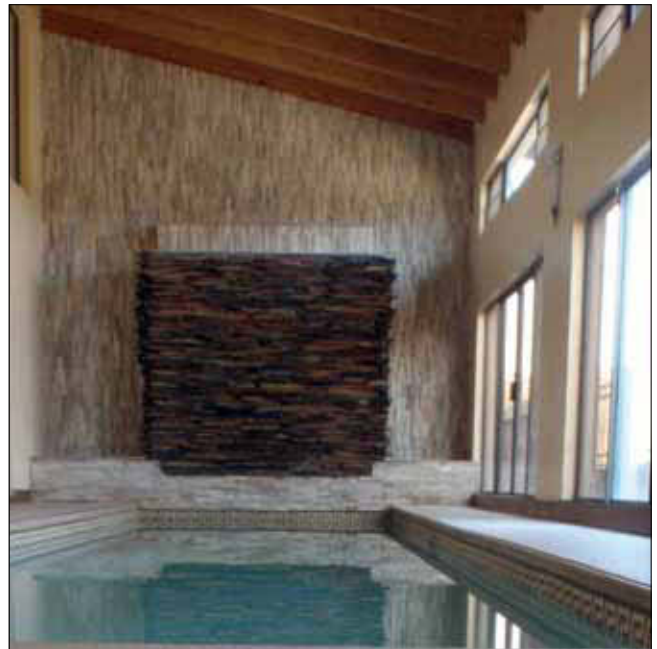
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Gavin

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But once in a while, like today I like to sit back on my chair in front of the fireplace and reflect on just how lucky I am to share my life with the greatest man I've ever met.

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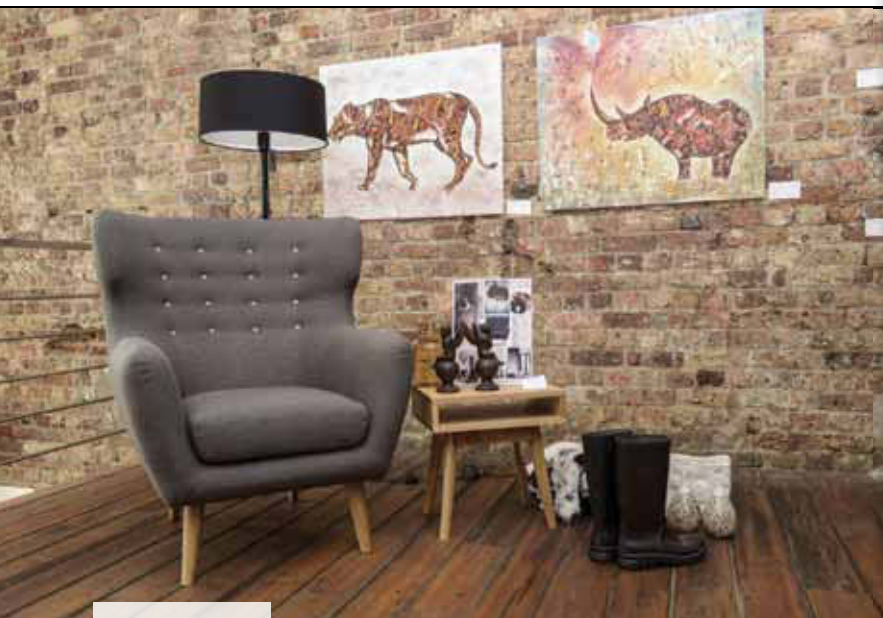
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ITALIAN FLAIR

World-renowned Italian interior brand Colombini Casa will now be at the Diva Group in Johannesburg. Offering home owners an innovative and complete design solution for their interior living space, Colombini Casa will introduce South Africans to the Italian lifestyle, which includes contemporary and functionally designed living spaces that are comfortable and creative. Divacucine.co.za



NEW ON THE BLOCK

With stores in Pretoria and Johannesburg, La Grange Interiors has now opened its third store, at the coast. Situated in Woodstock, the new showroom boasts pieces handpicked by owner Sumari Krige, along with unique furniture items, decor and antiques from across the globe. The team at La Grange Interiors is excited to inject its signature style of warmth and charm into the homes of Capetonians.

Lagrangeinteriors.co.za



SAVE THE DATE: 29 – 31 MAY

Returning to the Coca-Cola Dome, Grand Designs Live will take place over the last weekend in May. Moving into its sixth successful year, the show promises to showcase the absolute best innovations on offer in the home and garden world, with over 300 exhibitors. SA Home Owner will be at the show, so do visit.

Granddesignslive.co.za



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